

BANKS DEBATE/Broadsheet No.1

DO YOU CARE WHAT BANKS DO WITH YOUR MONEY?

Did you know that there's a proposal to nationalise the four main clearing banks—Barclays, Lloyds, Midland and National Westminster?

That's what the Labour Party's National Executive Committee (NEC) recommended last August in a pamphlet called "Banking and Finance".

The Government and the Prime Minister are against bank nationalisation.

"The third proposal, to nationalise the banks and the insurance companies, is the one that the Government cannot accept."
Mr James Callaghan, Blackpool, 24 Sept 1976

Even so, the proposal was passed at the 1976 Labour Party Conference.

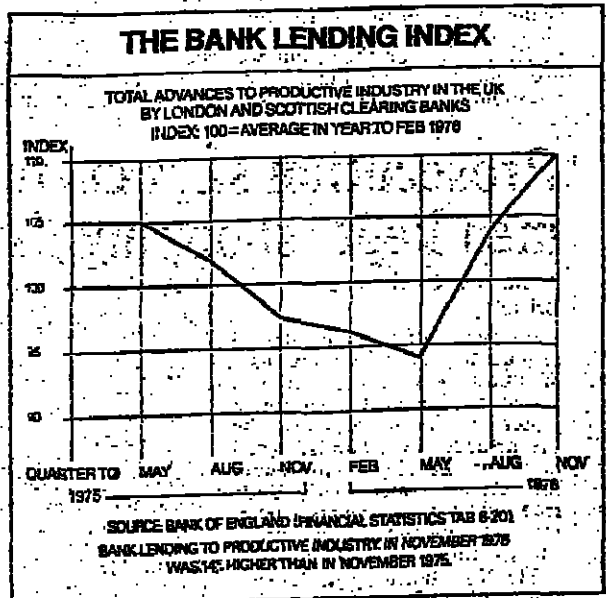
LENDING TO INDUSTRY

The whole question of nationalising British banks is a very important one because it affects everybody's money one way or another. We, the banks listed below, therefore believe that it is a matter for public discussion.

To open the discussion we would like to examine here just one issue raised by the NEC: how much banks should lend to industry. But we'd also like to know your opinions. So please let us hear your views, whether you are for or against bank nationalisation.

CAN WE MAKE INDUSTRY BORROW?

The NEC—through publicly-owned banks—hopes to double the amount of money that banks lend to industry over the next ten years. They say that manufacturing industry has "grown anaemic" as a result of its poor investment record. And nationalised banks, they argue, could get this money flowing.



But, could they? By the end of last year, the London and Scottish clearing banks had loans out to manufacturing and productive industries of over £6,500 million.

But this is not the whole story. Manufacturers have actually taken *less than half* the money they know to be available.

WHY WON'T INDUSTRY INVEST?

Most industries say that the trouble is not lack of funds at all. The CBI, which runs a regular survey of manufacturers, reported in April 1977 that only 3 per cent said they were held back by shortage of external finance.

This was confirmed by the National Economic Development Office. Despite some criticism of financing arrangements, its report in 1975 concluded:

"In general, companies did not see themselves as having been constrained in their investment by lack of cost of finance."

The clue lies, we believe, in another NEDO finding: "... uncertainty about the future is likely to remain as a major constraint on investment."

We want to lend: it is a vital function of banking. And better returns on investment will encourage borrowing. But in the meantime, we can't force money on people.

ARE WE TOO CAUTIOUS?

The money we're being asked to lend more generously actually belongs to our many millions of depositors. So we tend to

lend to creditworthy individuals and to well-managed companies.

But the NEC implies that we're too cautious. We think otherwise. Companies which borrow money from us must stand a good chance of making their investments pay. Otherwise they might not be able to repay the loan, let alone the interest. Then everybody loses.

FACT

The pre-tax rate of return on capital employed in British industry—in real terms—fell from an average of 10.8 per cent in the 1960s to an average of 6.5 per cent in the first half of the 1970s.

Bank of England Quarterly, March 1976.

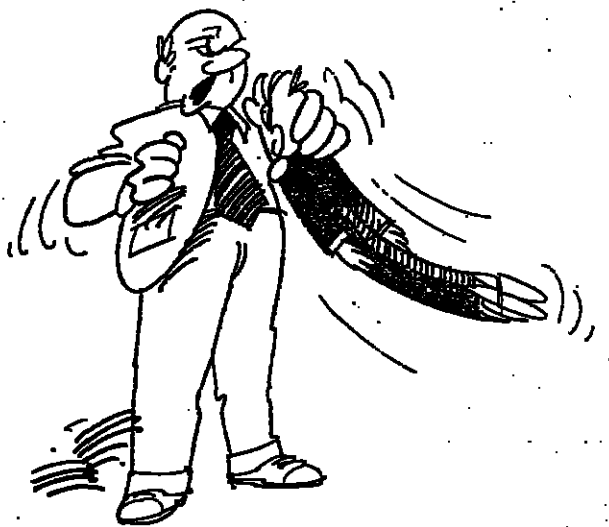
WOULD NATIONALISATION HELP?

We suspect that the lending policies of a nationalised bank could be guided by

political rather than by financial considerations. Otherwise, why nationalise?

There could be a temptation to see the banks as a cheap source of finance to support weak industries.

Could a Government minister (rarely in the same office for more than two or three years) provide the vital consistency in lending policies that industry needs?



"WE HAVE WAYS OF MAKING YOU BORROW"

We are as anxious as anyone else to improve Britain's economy. But we believe that we can contribute to it more effectively as bankers than as State employees.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

This is our point of view. But what do you—whose money we lend—think about it?

Should banks take more risks? Should lending policies continue to be decided by professional bankers? Would nationalisation lead to better and quicker decisions about lending?

Please tell us your views. We may not be able to answer every coupon or letter received, but please write just the same. It will increase our understanding of public opinion on this important issue.

NOW TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

You can write your comments on this coupon alone, or enclose it with a letter. Address your reply to THE BANKS, 10 Lombard Street, London EC3V 9AP. Or deliver it to any branch of any bank listed below, in an envelope marked "The Banks Debate."

Name _____ Address _____

THE BANKS



Quarter of Cabinet is fighting against direct EEC elections

By Our Political Editor

Opposition within the Cabinet to a direct-elections Bill for the European Parliament in May-June next year remains stubborn and spread. It became clear last night that the objectors include Mr. Orme, Minister for Social Security. Mr. Orme is said to have had open clashes on the question with the Prime Minister at Cabinet meetings at 10 Downing Street.

Resistance is also coming from Mr. Foot, Leader of the House. Mr. Sir, Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr. Rother, Secretary of State for Employment, Mr. Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, and Mr. Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Much of the Cabinet argument is essentially about the derogation of the Westminster Parliament's powers. But Cabinet ministers who have an anti-Europeanist record are exploiting every opportunity to oppose United Kingdom membership of the European Community, and it is now clear that a quarter of the Cabinet are opposed to

the Prime Minister's promise to the Community to use his "best endeavours" to fulfil the commitment to direct elections next year.

The Shadow Cabinet and most Conservative backbenchers appear to be standing firm on the principle of a simple majority, or "first past the post", for any European Parliament election, although some senior ministers make clear that the adoption of any such electoral method would rule out the possibility of the United Kingdom's keeping to the Community's timetable.

The Bill is already drafted in the Home Office, but the Government feels unable to let it take a place in the legislative programme this session, which virtually ends before August.

Consequently the Cabinet has first to reconcile itself to the draft Bill and then to come to an understanding with Mrs. Thatcher and the Opposition that any direct-elections Bill capable of being carried is better than no Bill at all.

Mr Jackson calls for pay-curb support

From Tim Jones

Bournemouth

The 1,000 delegates to the conference of the Union of Post Office Workers at Bournemouth were urged yesterday to support a further year of pay restraint. Mr Tom Jackson, the union's general secretary, said that those union leaders who argued for a 10 per cent increase and were aware of the consequences were a "disgrace to the trade union movement".

When they discuss the issue later this week the delegates are likely to back Mr Jackson and his executive in giving qualified support for a phase three pay policy.

The union has been a traditional supporter of income policy. A refusal by the 200,000 members to accept a further stage would be a serious setback to Mr Healey's hopes of securing an agreement with the TUC.

Mr Jackson said that after a bitter year his members were faced with their search for the Government for a sustained economic recovery or, out of desperation, to hand the benefits of their sacrifices to a Conservative government.

The paramount demand by the union would be that there should be no loss of living standards during the next phase of income policy, Mr Jackson said.

Mr Jackson said: "The Chancellor must understand that we have had enough. We do not want to be paid in concrete money. Indeed, our opposition to a free-for-all is based on that fact."

Repeating the demand of other union leaders, Mr Jackson

said there must be a price policy that bites.

Union leaders who were calling for a free-for-all for general or union advantage were prepared, he said, to risk economic collapse, hyperinflation, increased unemployment, and the repudiation of a Labour government.

Behind the union finally decides which way to use its block vote at the TUC conference the delegates will meet again later in the year to discuss the progress of the negotiations with the Government.

Mr Jackson made clear that the union would resist any recommendation by the Carter Committee of Inquiry for the Post Office to be split between telecommunications and the postal service.

Splitting the Post Office, he said, would bring higher prices and communications chaos into the industry. "What we shall see if division takes place is an explosion of management and administrative costs."

Any division, he said, would be the first and logical step towards baring off sections of the profitable telecommunications business to private industry.

Mr Jackson said the costs of the parcel division were gradually draining away the lifeblood of the letter service. "Had parcels not been making such a loss I should have been tempted to run the letter service since 1977."

But we cannot operate at a loss and still have decent wages and conditions. We therefore pressed the Post Office to keep the price increase as low as possible," Mr Jackson said.

Plan against wife's lover backfired, court told

David Penfold, a former Conservative parliamentary candidate, planned to lure his wife's lover to an hotel where he was to be beaten and forced to sign a letter breaking off the adulterous association. It was stated at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday.

The lover, who stabled his horses at Mr Penfold's home, was then to be anaesthetized and hauled in an aircraft and flown to Ireland, Mr Philip Cox, QC for the prosecution, added. But the plan, allegedly conceived by Mr Penfold, backfired.

Counsel said the lover, Mr Paul Haulik, aware that "some one was trying to do him some mischief" made himself a bulletproof vest. Mr Penfold's wife also arrived with him at the hotel. Later, Mr Penfold offered another man, George Hanson, £2,000 to shoot Mr Haulik. But Mr Hanson was a police informer.

Before the court were Mr Penfold, aged 42, an account executive, of The Grange, Newwood, near Burton upon Trent, John Westcott, aged 40, a builder, of Main Street, Eggington, Derby, and Anthony Calder, aged 30, a joiner, of Maple Drive, Derby.

Mr Penfold, who stood for Nottingham, West, in 1966 and twice at Derby, North, during the general elections of 1974 and September 4, 1976, denied that between June 26 and September 4, 1976, he solicited Douglas George Hanson to murder Mr Haulik.

All three defendants denied that between May 1 and June 18, 1976, they conspired together to assault Mr Haulik, causing him actual bodily harm.

After a long adjournment all three defendants pleaded guilty to new charges, a course that Mr Justice Melford Stevenson said he was prepared to accept.

Each was sentenced to two months' imprisonment, suspended for two years.

Mr Penfold admitted that between May 1 and June 18, 1976, he unlawfully solicited Mr Westcott and Mr Calder to assault Mr Haulik. Mr Westcott admitted unlawfully soliciting Mr Calder to assault Mr Haulik, and Mr Calder admitted that between the same dates he unlawfully solicited Mr Hanson to assault Mr Haulik.

The initial charge of soliciting to murder against Mr Penfold was allowed to remain on the file. Formal verdicts of not guilty in relation to the charge of conspiracy to assault occasioning actual bodily harm were entered with the consent of the prosecution.

Counsel said that Mr Haulik, a representative of the British Horse Society Riding Establishment Act Committee, had been stabling his horses at The Grange since November, 1974. By October, 1975, he began associating with Mrs Penfold.

By April, 1976, Mr Penfold became aware of the nature of the association and began to behave in a way that was very much out of his normal character.



Vanishing Britain: Wokingham District Council last week agreed to the partial demolition of a sixteenth-century coaching inn, the King's Head (four Planning Reporter writes). Listed

Tory women want a fresh image

By a Staff Reporter

After years as political wallflowers, typicist as the wearers of outrageous hats and openers of hazy, the Women's National Advisory Committee are making an earnest attempt to get the Tory women's conference taken more seriously.

Instead of the usual debates on carefully selected motions, delegates at Central Hall, Westminster, next week will have before them 117 resolutions drawn up by area committees.

The purpose, according to Lady Young, is to make the conference "more professional in its approach to politics."

Delegates will be asked to vote on only two motions. The first, chosen by ballot, calls on the next Conservative government to change the "level of tax paid by pensioners, widows and one-parent families." The other concerns government interference in business.

One of the most interesting of the working papers is that on *The Media and the Family*, produced by the south-eastern area council. Based on the results of a survey carried out in Surrey, Kent and Sussex earlier this year, it shows that more than three-quarters of the sample of 900 believed that their families benefit by certain items on radio, television and in newspapers.

A consistently high proportion believed that news reports on BBC radio and television were more reliable than those on commercial channels.

End occupation, students demand

By Judith Judd, of The Times Higher Education Supplement

Moderate students at the North East London Polytechnic yesterday demanded an end to the occupation of the college's West Ham premises after dozens of students had been unable to enter to take their Higher National Diploma examinations.

For the third day, when a group of protesters occupied the deputy director's office at Barking.

Miss Geraldine Charles, aged 22, a final-year biology student at West Ham, said: "This occupation is the work of a tiny minority of students. Unless it ends soon, people's careers will be threatened."

Mr Anthony Hamilton, a senior biology lecturer, said it would be impossible to rearrange examinations if the occupations, in protest against the imprisonment of the students' union president, Mr

Andrew Scrouthous for contempt of court, continued for another week.

All the science examination papers are in the strong room at the West Ham premises, which is occupied by about twenty of the polytechnic's 6,000 students.

An official said: "We cannot allow examinations and lectures to go on in a building that is not wholly controlled by the polytechnic. It would be ludicrous to allow students to dictate when and where examinations should be held."

The polytechnic is in a court order to regain possession of the building this week. The protesters yesterday said that 90 lecturers could not work normally because of the closure of the premises.

Dr George Brown, director of the polytechnic to reopen the building, and ask the students to leave.

over yesterday to keep the peace until the dates of their full hearings, which have yet to be fixed.

The news came on Friday night during a demonstration at Pentonville Prison, Scrouthous, president of the National Union of Students at the North East London Polytechnic, was jailed earlier last week for contempt of court. Among those bound over yesterday was Mr Biggs, aged 21, who is standing in for Scrouthous as acting president and two girl students.

Teachers' protest: The West Ham branch of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education yesterday said that about 90 lecturers could not work normally because of the closure of the premises.

Dr George Brown, director of the polytechnic to reopen the building, and ask the students to leave.

In brief

Chairmanship goes to ballot

A ballot of the members of the League Against Cruel Sports to decide who will be chairman will take place in the wake of a bitter clash. The ballot, was called by Mr Raymond Rowley, chairman for the past 14 years, who was defeated for the chairmanship at a rowdy meeting last week and maintained that it had been infiltrated by the Hunt-Saboteurs Association.

Miss Jan Remison, a former Miss Australia, won the chairmanship after calling for a more vigorous fight for the abolition of hunting. Miss Remison has conceded Mr Rowley's right to call a ballot under the league's articles of association.

Police caught killer with victim

Alan Wilcox, aged 21, was said at Nottingham Crown Court yesterday to have been caught by two policemen with the body of his victim next to him in his car.

Mr Wilcox, of Ebury Road, Sherwood, Nottingham, was jailed for life for the murder of Mrs Vera Ruby Davies, aged 26.

Human rights Bill

The House of Lords is to set up an all-party committee to examine whether a Bill on human rights is desirable.

Royal breakdown

Princess Anne's horsebox broke down on the M1 near Taddington, Bedfordshire, yesterday, as she and Captain Mark Phillips were driving back to London from horse trials at Bramham, West Yorkshire.

Father, 17, killed baby

Derek Brown, aged 17, of Nottingham Road, Bedford, Nottingham, was jailed at Nottingham Crown Court yesterday for three years for the manslaughter of his daughter, Susan, aged two months.

Imperfect stamps

Imperfect jubilee stamps, believed to be the first, have been sold at a post office counter. The stamps are now owned by Mr Alan Grant, of Lyndhurst, Hampshire.

Bomb hoaxer sentenced

Paul Connor, aged 22, a former soldier, of Cwm Place, Llandudno, Gwynedd, was sentenced yesterday to 100 hours' community work and ordered to pay £21 costs after pleading guilty to making a bomb threat to a cafe.

Childminders group

The National Childminding Association, the forerunner of which was announced in The Times on Saturday, can be reached through its secretary, Mrs Celia Smith, Canine, High Street, Buxton, West Cheshire, Cheshire, TW16 1HS.

Foot view of judges 'historical'

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the House of Commons, yesterday defended his statement that if the freedom and rights of the people, especially trade unionists, had been widely dependent on judges, "we would have few freedoms in this country at all."

He emphasized, again, however, that his remark to members of the Union of Post Office Workers at Bournemouth on Sunday, had been made in an historical context and was not aimed at present day judges.

Mr Rhodes Boyson, opposition spokesman on education, said yesterday that he would prefer freedom dependent on judges' interpretations of law rather than on the "passing whims" of politicians or the resolutions of trade union executives.

The British Legal Association, which represents about three thousand lawyers, asked: "How can you hope to maintain public respect for law and order when the Leader of the House himself incites doubts about the fairness of judges?"

Support for Mr Foot, however, came from the Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers. "The judiciary has been limited and denied the rights of trade unions and working people", it said.



Balcombe Street bravery: Thirteen police officers who took part in the Balcombe Street siege in London in December, 1975, were commended for their bravery and presented with £25 cheques from the Bow Street Magistrates' Court Reward Fund yesterday. Eight of them shown here are (front row, left to right): Inspector Henry Dowdell, Sergeant Philip Mansfield, Sergeant Murrough McVeigh, Sergeant Robert Fenton; and back row (left to right) Constable Peter Wilson, Constable Barry Court, Sergeant Norman Bolton and Sergeant Ian Skinner. Two other constables, who were away ill, will receive their awards later. The officers were involved in the chase or

capture of four IRA terrorists who held a husband and wife hostage for six days. Mr Kenneth Barracough, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, who presented the awards, said: "Everyone agrees that these officers deserve commendation. Knowing the dangers and without regard for the personal safety, they all had a part in containing these ruthless criminals, enemies of society. There is a call for thanks, not only from the metropolis but the whole country, for their devotion in tracking down and bringing to justice these men. I am very proud to make rewards from the Bow Street fund. They are small rewards, but made with gratitude and sincere congratulations to you all."

Tynesiders' £100m dream river is almost a reality

A long-cherished dream of the citizens of Newcastle upon Tyne and Gateshead of being able to watch salmon leaping from their river somewhere between the high-level and Spring bridges is coming nearer reality. That dream, which first caught the imagination of Tyneside civic leaders almost 20 years ago, is likely to have cost about £100m by the time it is realized in the mid-1980s.

There is, however, much more to the vast engineering work of cleaning up the Tyne (perhaps more accurately, if less attractively, called a sewerage project) than the substitution of fine fish for the other, uglier objects that nowadays catch the eye of the occasional beholder of its waters.

Not to put too fine a point on it, the 20-mile tidal reach of the Tyne between its mouth and Wylam (where it becomes a freshwater river) is an open sewer and has been one for a hundred years.

Some of the river's most obnoxious characteristics (which the Romans noted) have always

been that it is fast-flowing, fed by enormous tonnages of fresh water, deep and relatively narrow. For those reasons, it has acted as just about the largest and most efficient flushing cistern in Britain, possibly in Europe.

That admirable natural arrangement was regarded as unsatisfactory by all concerned until 1958, when the leaders of 20 local authorities recognized that it would not suffice forever in an increasingly hygienic-conscious world. Their far-sightedness resulted in the creation of the Tyneside Joint Sewerage Board and a plan, originally estimated to cost £40m, which was inherited by the Northumbrian Water Authority and is now roughly half complete, with the inevitable escalations in cost.

It involves the construction of some 40 miles of "interceptor sewers" on both banks of the river, amounting to a vast tunnel system to catch the output of hundreds of direct outfalls from the homes and workplaces of almost 2 million

Regional report

John Chartres Newcastle upon Tyne

people and channel their contents into a treatment plant downriver at Howdon, near Wallsend. There most of the obnoxious contents will be treated and pumped into a 1,500-ton sludge ship, now sitting out on the Clyde and rather unimaginatively named "Northumbrian Water", which will dump them six miles out at sea.

Most of the sewer tunnels are complete. The first stage of the Howdon works should be commissioned in the spring of 1979. A preliminary filtering unit on the south bank at Jarrow will extract rags, polythene bags and other nasty objects which would be the bane of the river. Yet another tunnel,

10ft. 6in in diameter, has been bored under the bed of the Tyne to link the two plants.

No immediate miracles are expected, but there should be a gradual improvement from the end of this year, and provision has been made for even more elaborate extensions of the system in the 1980s if the need arises and finances permit. The engineers on the job all admit that £100m is a lot of money, which certainly could not be justified for the sake of the salmon even if, as legend has it, a quarter of a million fish a year were regularly taken from the river early in the nineteenth century.

The really important part of the project, they think, is to make the river acceptable, if not actually to swim in it, least to sit on a bank beside it. The engineers are now planning to create three artificial islands in the river, which will be potentially one of the most beautiful parts of the river. Yet another tunnel,

Lorry driver endangered rail passengers

From Our Correspondent

Notwich

Eric Hills, aged 33, a lorry driver, who was said to have ignored warnings and to have driven over an unmanned level crossing, causing a crash with an express train in which the train driver was killed, was given a six-month prison sentence suspended for two years, at Norwich Crown Court yesterday and fined £100.

Mr Hills, of Green Park, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire, pleaded not guilty to the manslaughter of Mr Robert Hitcham, the train driver, of Cherry Hill, Norfolk, last December. The plea was accepted, he admitted, but said that he was not aware of the danger of passing the train.

The three who pleaded not guilty are Richard Boyle, of Lutgate, near Bristol; Jack

Prosecution says customs men kept 'shopping list'

From Our Correspondent

Bristol

Customs officers at Bristol airport kept a "shopping list" of items they wanted, it was stated at Bristol Crown Court yesterday. The list was used by the manager of a bonded warehouse at the airport to supply the customs men with duty-free cigarettes, spirits, beer, watches, perfume and after-shave lotion, it was alleged.

Mr Neil Butcher, QC, for the prosecution, said that at first the customs men paid for the goods at low, duty-free prices, but then they even stopped paying.

Three customs officers denied conspiracy with Butcher to defraud the payment of duty at Bristol airport between June, 1973 and October, 1975. The court was told that after other officers had pleaded guilty to this same offence, they will be sentenced today. The three who pleaded not guilty are Richard Boyle, of Lutgate, near Bristol; Jack

Universities seek assurances on fees

By Frances Gibb, of The Times Higher Education Supplement

A group of 25 university and university colleges called on the Government to ensure that no student forced to leave a course of study because of the levels of tuition fees in effect in October.

In a strongly worded letter the universities demanded that government should increase fees, and that money given to universities to help students in difficulty should be inadequate.

Students should be able to complete their studies with their original expectations of the cost, they have financial implications changes "unilaterally imposed" should be borne by the government, in addition to the universities' grant.

The statement, agreed at a one-day conference at Brunel University, is to go before a university senate and a Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals in the hope it will stimulate a wide reference.

Many universities oppose increased fees. So far individual institutions have set more than £300,000 of help to students in difficulties. That compares with £500,000 provided for that purpose in Government grants.

Among other points, it says that many of the 10,000 British undergraduates unable to obtain grants would be excluded from universities because of fees, and that postgraduate education and research would be heavily damaged.

Postgraduates would find it hard to obtain grants, and if any of those supporting themselves would be able to continue. The damage would likely to be as great in science and technology, which was said to be the Government wished to encourage.

The universities also call for one level of fees for home and overseas students, particularly at postgraduate level.

They opposed a quota system on overseas students, fees constituting a proportion of the total cost of education, more than 10 per cent, and any further fees increases in 1978-79. A note of dissent came from the New University of Ulster, which said it was in broad sympathy with many of the resolutions but that it gave unqualified support to them all.

New maximum for payments

Where trade unionists nominate people to receive sums of money that may be due from their unions when they die, a new maximum of £500 will apply from June 1 next. The amount has been increased from £500 through the Trade Union (Nominations) Regulations, 1977, laid before Parliament yesterday by Mr Walker, Minister of State for Employment. Payments cover the cost of funeral expenses, grants or amounts due from savings funds.

Bankruptcy threat

Ten former parish councilors who held office at Clay Cross, Derbyshire, for only three weeks, face the possibility of bankruptcy if they do not pay nearly £4,000 in legal fees within 14 days.

Drilling plan arouses nuclear-waste fears

Dr Frank Feates, head of the authority's environmental safety group, has spent several months attempting to convince councillors in Galloway that all he wants is to drill into the sides of Mullwharchar, one of the few places in Britain where the bedrock punctures the Earth's surface. The drilling, part of a research project involving European countries into the suitability of clay soil and hard rock for the deep burial of nuclear waste, will be partly paid for by the EEC.

"My sole concern is to study the kind of hard rock which is readily accessible on Mullwharchar", he said. If arguments are raised that show that Galloway is unsuitable for this kind of site, he said, he is delighted to hear them, but he is not here to judge that question. It is something that

simply has not been considered.

"If we were looking for a site to bury nuclear waste, we would not be in hard rock in Galloway, which is the most commonly used rock elsewhere and much cheaper to drill into. In that case we would not be in Scotland at all, but in central England. The chances of Galloway's ever being chosen are a thousand to one against."

The hundred and fifty people at the forum were not convinced, and determined to make an issue of the burial plan. Damaged slogans and posters depicting skulls lined the walls of the hall.

The argument covered the whole issue of nuclear development and the impact of Galloway as a neglected and economically stagnant area.

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The trial continues today.

HOME NEWS

Wet Britain still needs more rain to fill underground reserves

By Michael Horsell.

In spite of the wetter winter and spring for 100 years Britain's underground reserves will need at least as much rain again next winter before they recover from last year's drought.

That emerged yesterday after a detailed report by the National Water Council, which examined the winter excess rainfall statistics which show the amount of water that drains through the soil into the chalk aquifers below.

The excess was double the average in many parts of the country and in some cases underground water levels rose by as much as 20 metres.

Mr. Howell, Minister for Sport and Water Resources, is today launching a report by the National Water Council, which recommends the rejection of a national grid water transfer system, first mooted by him after last year's drought.

The council says a future drought should be tackled in a flexible way as they develop, but analysis of the winter rainfall suggests that the debate on whether there should be a grid system has by no means ended.

Artificial reservoirs are full and experts say the country would survive another drought this summer less painfully than last. But the aquifers are still well below normal levels for this time of year.

A council official said: "There is absolutely no cause for concern because the aquifers are in an improved position from this time last year but for them to be back to normal will take more rain than the normally expected to be in a position of superabundance at this time of year but we have not returned to them by any means because of the 16-month drought."

Curiously, however, because of the amount of rain that fell from September 8 to the end of the year, 1976 will not look particularly dry statistically.

Since the parched soil of last summer reached capacity (the point at which enough rain had fallen to saturate it and drain through) centres throughout Britain have reported record harvests of rainwater.

From that point to the end of April, Gloucester reported a winter excess rainfall of 638mm compared with an average of 255mm. Bristol 580mm compared with 305mm. Plymouth 670mm compared with 430mm. London 400mm compared with 230mm.

Eastern England in particular has benefited from winter excess rainfall above the average.

Liberal Party aims to raise £100,000

By a Staff Reporter.

The Liberal Party is launching a £100,000 appeal on Thursday to mark the centenary of the foundation of the National Liberal Federation, the forerunner of today's party organisation.

An official said last night that the money would be put in a trust. The estimated 10,000 investment income would be used for research and to help finance a future general election campaign.

A special publication, *Centenary*, celebrating 100 years of Liberalism, has been produced, and it is from that and other activities that the party hopes to raise the £100,000.

A commemorative service at Westminster Abbey, a concert at Royal Albert Hall and a dinner for a thousand people in Birmingham, where the National Liberal Federation was founded, are also planned.

This is the first time that the party, which has been much of its income from donations, has tried to provide itself with a capital endowment.

An official said: "It is not easy for the Liberals to raise money. We have no ready access to regular income from the trade unions, like the Labour Party, nor the kind of guaranteed corporate income that goes to the Tories."

Liberal Party headquarters, which has a staff of 12, expects a deficit of £12,000 this year on a total income of £125,000; it was disclosed last night.

Liberal Party donors over the future of the National Liberal Club, which was founded in 1877, were discussed last night when Anthony Dobson Associates, management consultants, told 150 members at a meeting at the Central Hall, Westminster, that they had 80 ideas for "rejuvenating" the club.

Members are expected to appoint a new management committee, as managers of the club had been terminated by the club trustees after only three weeks (Malcolm Brown writes).

On April 15 a letter to Anthony Dobson Associates told members that their appointment had been terminated.

Mr. Anthony Dobson said last night when his proposals for managing the club were backed by supporters from a big hall.

Members are expected to appoint a new management committee, as managers of the club had been terminated by the club trustees after only three weeks (Malcolm Brown writes).

Number of boarding school places continues to drop

By Our Education Correspondent.

A sharp decline in the number of boarding places at state schools over the last 11 years is shown in a survey published last night at the Boarding Schools Association's annual conference in Gloucester.

The survey shows that the number of places dropped from 10,373 to 9,118, a fall of 255. During the same period the total number of pupils at maintained schools rose from 300,000 to just under nine million.

The number of boarding places is likely to drop still further because Surrey County Council decided in March to close Ottershaw School, which has 250 pupils. Its closure has still to be approved by Mrs. Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

Three other state boarding schools have been closed since 1970. They are Horsley's Green, a boarding school for 150 pupils, in Buntingford, Cambridgeshire; Shoots, a boarding school for 140 pupils in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire; and Sheep Hatch School, Surrey (150).

In addition, two state schools have pupils were mainly boarders, Gwent Grammar School, Gwent (112 boarders) and Trowbridge Technical School, Wiltshire (103), have closed. The survey found that 44 out of 121 state schools that had boarding places in 1966 have stopped taking boarders and four others are running down their boarding establishments.

Mr. Richard Perry, chairman of the association, which represents 350 independent and state boarding schools, told the conference: "The scarcely credible proposal to close Ottershaw School is a national disgrace."

Two fired for selling banned baby medicine

A baby medicine on sale contained such a high amount of sedative that it had been prohibited by law, it was stated at Hendon Magistrates' Court yesterday.

Mr. Vernon Keys, for the prosecution, said the medicine, 'Bai' (Bai-Chandi), had been supplied to the shop by wholesalers.

Kanhai Lal Kishan and his wife, Babul Kishan, trading as Bina Stores, of Golders Green Road, admitted 12 offences under the Medicines Act, 1968, and were fined £480 each and ordered to pay £15 costs each.

Heating grants for OAPs are suggested

Heating allowances for pensioners should be replaced with a new grant, Professor David Donnigan, chairman of the Supplementary Benefits Commission, says in an article published today in *Social Work Today*.

Strenuous efforts to encourage pensioners to claim their heating allowances have still failed to reach about 250,000 of them, he says.

Lump sums could be paid to all people receiving supplementary benefits to end the growing reliance on discretionary payment.

Claimants with several children, particularly the long-term unemployed, are having the hardest time, he says.

Integrated approach may lead to youth policy

Decisive government action expected on plan to create opportunities for young jobless

By Craig Seton.

The apparent determination of the Government to act decisively on the recommendations of a Manpower Services Commission working party on youth unemployment could establish Britain as pre-eminent among the industrial nations in opportunities for the jobless young.

The working party's report will be published tomorrow. It comes just over a week after the Downing Street summit of seven leading industrial nations had agreed that they faced an urgent task in creating more jobs, particularly for young people.

They also agreed to an exchange of experience and ideas on providing the young with job opportunities.

Faced with rising numbers of young unemployed people, Britain has largely adopted a series of short-term measures activated through the Manpower Services Commission, the agency that has shouldered the burden of introducing the new schemes.

The piecemeal approach is now likely to be replaced with an integrated plan, costing £200m a year, to guarantee everyone under 18 a chance to work, train or study, which will be based largely on the existing measures.

The enthusiasm of the Prime Minister for a new and co-ordinated approach is considered likely to see the recommendations fully adopted by the Government, perhaps to be developed gradually into an overall youth policy.

Britain is not the first country to recognise that youth unemployment is likely to be of a long-term and structural, rather than cyclical, nature. Some estimates suggest that it will cause serious difficulties for industrial nations for at least 10 years.

In Britain the increased birth-rate of the early 1960s and the steady erosion of jobs in manufacturing present the core of the problem. By September more than 500,000 of the 730,000 school-leavers will be looking for work.

Last month more than 50,000 leavers, who had never had a job, were registered as unemployed, an increase of 19,000 over March. The Government estimates that the number of 16-year-olds in the population will increase from the 1972 figure of 673,000 to a peak of 823,000 by 1981, before falling to 705,000 in 1989.

The British Youth Council, in

Proportion of young people among the unemployed, 1967-76					
	Belgium	Germany	France	Italy	UK
1967	16.3	12.8	19.4	22.8	25.9
1968	15.5	11.8	20.5	24.6	23.8
1969	15.4	14.4	16.5	26.8	25.5
1970	11.9	18.7	23.1	26.5	27.3
1971	14.0	19.8	23.0	26.4	31.1
1972	17.2	19.8	25.6	27.5	31.7
1973	17.7	22.3	28.5	30.1	27.5
1974	24.7	28.4	22.7	32.6	30.4
1975	31.5	28.6	37.4	34.1	41.9
1976	32.3		37.6		43.9

Source: EEC Commission

any national plan.

The proportion of young people among the unemployed in the United Kingdom has been consistently greater than that in other EEC countries.

By 1975 the proportion of young unemployed in the United Kingdom (under 25 years of age) was 41.9 per cent, compared with 36 per cent in Holland, 34 per cent in Italy (under 21), 37.4 per cent in France, and 28.6 per cent in Germany.

Studies by the EEC Commission of the duration of unemployment among young people showed a gradual increase in the proportion unemployed for 12 months or more between 1974 and 1976, from 3 to 8 per cent in Great Britain; from 4 to 10 per cent in Holland; from 1 to 8 per cent in Germany; and from 12 to 26 per cent in Belgium.

The British Youth Council, in recommendations to the Government, concluded that it was of supreme importance that overall employment and associated policies should be developed at EEC level.

A delegation from the British Youth Council will meet Mr. Booth, Secretary of State for Employment, and Mrs. Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, in a few days to discuss what initiatives the Government intends to take on youth employment and vocational training.

Any schemes are likely to be given a boost by Mrs. Williams's determination that her department shall play a central role through local education authorities.

Old people in homes 'too protected'

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent.

Old people living in residential homes should not be stopped from smoking, drinking or making a cup of tea for themselves simply because there might be some risk involved, according to a report being studied by Mr. Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services. The report, to be published on June 10, adds that any rules and restrictions should be discussed fully with both residents and staff.

Daily routine in old people's homes should be based on the need of the residents to lead satisfying lives. The rules should be as few as possible for all adults, except those who are mentally confused, and should be clearly stated in policy guidelines.

The report has been compiled by a working group set up by the Personal Social Services Council in response to a government request for guidance on principles and practice for promoting good residential care. Earlier reports by the working group have suggested that staff in many homes are too protective towards the elderly residents, who gradually become too passive to make any decisions for themselves.

In some homes, for example, residents are not allowed to smoke, in their own rooms, climb stairs, drink on the premises, or go out for a walk without first seeking permission or being accompanied by a member of staff. Women who have spent a lifetime cooking for a family are often denied any opportunity to prepare even a small snack, although they are still capable.

In practice, the report suggests, it is often not clear that an elderly or handicapped person will have a better life in a residential home or that residential care can offer any improvement on continuing efforts to cope independently. Too often a residential home is a last resort rather than a positive choice.

Present practice causes difficulties for the staff as well as for the 300,000 residents of homes in England and Wales. Too many of the staff are untrained, unsupported by the rest of the social services, and unhappy with rules and restrictions that they neither understand nor accept. Despite recent advances, many of the staff still work overlong hours because of shortages of staff and restricted opportunities to pursue their own private lives.

The report says the best residential care is based on a shared understanding by residents and staff of each other's needs. Both should have a say in the running of homes and not be expected simply to conform to policies laid down for them. The report deals mainly with the need to establish a framework for residential care.

The section on daily living says that it is not possible to prescribe or codify model rules, because the atmosphere and manner of life in any home is based on the personal relationships between the staff and residents there. A question-and-answer booklet for staff, based on the report's recommendations, is to be published separately.

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WEST EUROPE

Mr Mondale discusses US aid for Portugal

Mr Jose S. S. Mendes, Vice-President of the United States, discussed the aid to Portugal during his 11-hour meeting with President Eanes.

Mr Mondale said there were no problems in Portugal's relations with Washington. He said his talk with General Eanes this morning had included the question of United States investment in Portugal and credits, now being negotiated, as well as other economic aid.

Discussion of United States aid to the Portuguese armed forces dealt in particular with the creation and equipping of an airborne brigade to operate in NATO forces, he said. Human rights and American use of the bases in the Azores were also discussed.

As a result of today's talks, the recent meeting between President Eanes and President James, there exists no problem of a bilateral nature which an now affects relations between the two countries, Mr Mondale said.

After his meeting with President Eanes, Mr Mondale conferred with Dr Soares, the Prime Minister.

Mr Mondale had spent yesterday with Mr Andrew Young, the United States representative at the United Nations, who had flown into Lisbon to brief the Vice-President on his own visit to African countries.

Basque provinces shut down by strike over demonstration deaths

From William Chisler, Madrid, May 16

Industry and commerce were badly affected in the Basque country today as hundreds of thousands of workers went on strike in protest against the death of five people in confrontations with police during pro-amnesty demonstrations.

The general strike was almost total in the provinces of Vizcaya and Guipuzcoa. Riot police this morning dispersed over a thousand demonstrators in San Sebastian with rubber bullets and smoke bombs.

Shops opened briefly in San Sebastian so that people could buy food. There were also strikes in Barcelona after demonstrations over the weekend. Pickets were out urging all establishments to close. Barricades were thrown up in towns such as Victoria and Pamplona.

In Pamplona several people were injured when police broke up a group trying to attend a Mass for a man killed by the police on Friday. About 20 of the churchgoers were arrested.

When about a thousand people took to the streets in Bilbao, the largest Basque town, police used teargas and rubber bullets to disperse the crowds, as they had done in Pamplona.

Sir Donald MacDougall, the British Ambassador in Madrid, said today that the Basque problem was one of the most serious facing the Spanish Government.

The minister, who is in Paris, said that the Basque country, Catalonia and other regions would be given some degree of autonomy in the future. Amnesty and a total amnesty are the main demands of the Basques.

The Interior Ministry has issued a statement saying that the Government is to release more prisoners. The statement said that there were 110 remaining political prisoners (opposition sources put the figure at nearer 200) of which 27 are Basques, 19 of them awaiting trial and eight already sentenced.

Apert from the 27 prisoners, some of whom were convicted of or are allegedly involved in politically motivated crimes of violence, the rest are thought to be anarchists and members of the Anti-Fascist Revolutionary Front and the reconstructed Spanish Communist Party.

The Government's amnesty applies only to offences committed before December 15; the date of the Government's referendum on political reform. Since then 80 people have been imprisoned for political offences, most of them awaiting trial.

The electoral board met today to discuss the eligibility of various candidates in the forthcoming elections. The board said that there was no decision yet on whether Señor Sádaba, the Prime Minister, was eligible to stand.

The Proletarian Party and the extreme right-wing Fuerza Nueva have denounced the Prime Minister's candidacy. Leading article, page 15



This photograph, published by the "Corriere d'Informazione" of Milan, shows a masked youth taking aim with a pistol during riots there on Saturday in which a policeman was shot dead.

Appeal for 'heroic effort' to solve Italian crisis

From Peter Nichols, Rome, May 16

Sigior Ugo La Malfa, who is chairman of the Republican Party and a former Deputy Prime Minister, said today that a truly heroic effort was required to lift Italy out of its crisis.

As he spoke, the violent atmosphere which has shocked public opinion in the past weeks showed little sign of abating.

Shots were exchanged outside the law courts this morning and two people said to be of the extreme right were arrested. Tension was again high at Bologna University, the scene of some of the worst examples of street violence a month ago.

Giorgina Masi, the 19-year-old girl shot during disorders in Rome on Thursday night, was buried today while radicals claimed that she had been "deliberately murdered" by the authorities. "Only the choice of person was fortuitous," Signor Francesco Cossiga, the Minister of the Interior, will doubtless answer this charge by pointing out that the Thursday riots arose out of a refusal by the radicals to accept a month-long ban on demonstrations.

He is also expected to comment on reports that he was misinformed about the presence at the riots of armed plainclothes policemen. His Ministry denied that they were there despite newspaper photographs which gave a strong impression to the contrary.

The Communists have suggested that the Minister was given inaccurate information in order to embarrass him publicly.

Fishermen disrupt traffic in Brussels

From Our Own Correspondent, Brussels, May 16

A hundred angry Scottish fishermen, led by a piper playing stirring martial airs, disrupted traffic in the centre of Brussels today. They demonstrated outside the headquarters of the EEC's Council of Ministers in support of the British case for exclusive national fishing limits up to 50 miles from the coastline.

Mrs Winifred Ewing, the Scottish Nationalist, who was one of five Scottish MPs accompanying the demonstration, protested strongly when she was not included in a 12-strong delegation received by Mr John Silkin, the Minister for Agriculture, and Mr Bruce Millan, Secretary of State for Scotland.

Mr Gilbert Buchanan, vice-president of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation, who led the delegation said later that nothing Mr Silkin had told them suggested there was much hope of securing EEC agreement to 50-mile limits.

The question was not on the agenda of EEC Agricultural Ministers today.

Instead, they discussed proposals by the European Commission for extending the present ban on herring fishing in the North Sea.

The commission, supported by Britain, wants the ban to be continued until the end of the year. It is due to expire at the end of this month.

Warning on limits of EEC resources

Michael Hornsby, Brussels, May 16

The EEC is likely to reach the limits of its financial capacity by the end of the decade even assuming no important policy changes that would increase demands on the community's budget, according to a report by an independent study group set up by the European Commission.

From next January the budget should be financed entirely from the EEC's "own resources"—that is, from the common customs duties on industrial imports, levies on arm imports and up to 1 per cent of the revenue from value-added tax assessed on a common list of items.

The report estimates that on this basis, the maximum available "own resources" in 1978 (at 1976 prices) is likely to be about 11,500 million units of account (4,790m) compared with expected budget expenditure in that year of some 9,700m units of account.

Given a continuation of present policies coupled with some increases in development aid, the budgetary consequences of Greece's accession to the EEC and other items, the report reckons that by 1980 the Community will have exhausted its "own resources" capacity.

The study group was composed of international economists under the chairmanship of Sir Donald MacDougall, Chief Economic Adviser to the Confederation of British Industry and a former Chief Economic Adviser to the Treasury. Its report was commissioned as a follow-up to the 1975 MacGillivray report on economic and monetary union.

The easiest way of breaking new sources of revenue, the group says, would be to raise the 1 per cent VAT limit on member states' contributions to the budget, subject to the present safeguards which prevent any country's budget share from disproportionately exceeding its share of Community gross national product.

A preferred alternative, in the group's view, would be a source of progressive revenue that would assist the redistribution of wealth within the Community. One idea would be to build on the VAT system some form of budget equalization scheme with adjustments for redistributive purposes based on a "key" related to personal income tax capacity.

The report suggests some ways of increasing expenditure at Community level, for example on employment and regional policy, but it does not consider it possible to raise the EEC Budget expressed as a proportion of Community gross national product to more than 2 to 2.5 per cent. This compares with the present level of 0.7 per cent.

Inflation 'not to be blamed on common farm policy'

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris, May 16

Inflation was associated in people's minds in Britain with the common agricultural policy, which was becoming a scapegoat for an orchestrated attempt to open the issues which were thought closed at the time of the referendum on rejoining the EEC in 1975.

Mr Christopher Tugendhat, the British member of the European Commission responsible for budgetary affairs, told a Paris luncheon of the British Conservative Association in France today.

"It is absolutely not true that the common agricultural policy is the primary cause of inflation at home," Food prices in Britain had gone up by 18 per cent since last August, but the products covered by the common agricultural policy had one up on average by only 9 per cent. The products not covered by it—fruit, vegetables, tea and coffee—had gone up by an average of 29 per cent in the same period.

Mr Tugendhat dealt firmly with the argument that Britain could buy food more cheaply outside Europe. "At any given time it may be true that small quantities of particular products are somewhat cheaper in the world than on the European market. But the days when Britain could rely on regular supplies of cheap food from primary producers are over."

The European Commission was blamed for things that went wrong in Britain and West Germany. "But it was the Council of Ministers which in the recent price settlement, regrettably decided on a higher support price, and smaller reductions in monetary compensations than the Commission recommended."

This raised the question of the inadequate representation in the decision-making process of the consumer and the taxpayer.

He thought that direct elections to the European Parliament would help to bring home to public opinion the nature of the problem.

Azores separatist violence leaves nine wounded

Ponta Delgada, May 16

Portuguese police reinforcements moved into this capital of Sao Miguel Island in the Azores today after night of separatist violence which at least nine people were wounded by gunfire.

A bomb damaged the naval radio station here and on Terceira Island an explosion wrecked an Army vehicle. No one was hurt by the explosions.

General Galvão de Melo, Portugal's resident minister in the semi-autonomous archipelago, described the shooting and bombing as the worst so far in the campaign for total independence by the separatist minority.

Police reported that a large group of armed separatists tracked their headquarters, but were repulsed by tear gas. Police said they fired into the air. Five policemen and four civilians were admitted to hospital with bullet wounds after the battle, an official statement said.

Tension increased here yesterday after troops, acting on orders from President Eanes in Lisbon, took down white and blue separatist flags flying on the islands.

Separatist militants, mainly of the Front for the Liberation of the Azores, are dissatisfied by a recent decree granting regional autonomy to the Azores and Madeira. They want outright independence and have been engaging in demonstrations and bomb attacks to press their claim.

General Eanes criticized the lack of action by the Social Democratic regional government of the Azores, which he appealed for calm, said it could not be responsible for any violence and played down the raising of separatist flags.

Mr Walter Mondale, the American Vice-President, whose country was the strategic base for the Azores, was in Lisbon for talks with Portuguese leaders as the Azores incidents occurred, but there was no indication the separatists had named this deliberately. Reuters.

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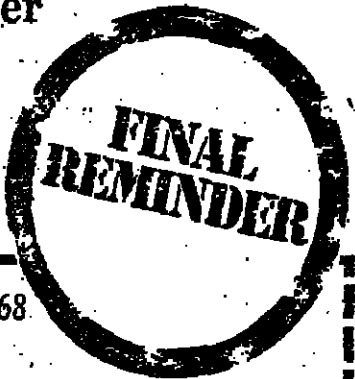
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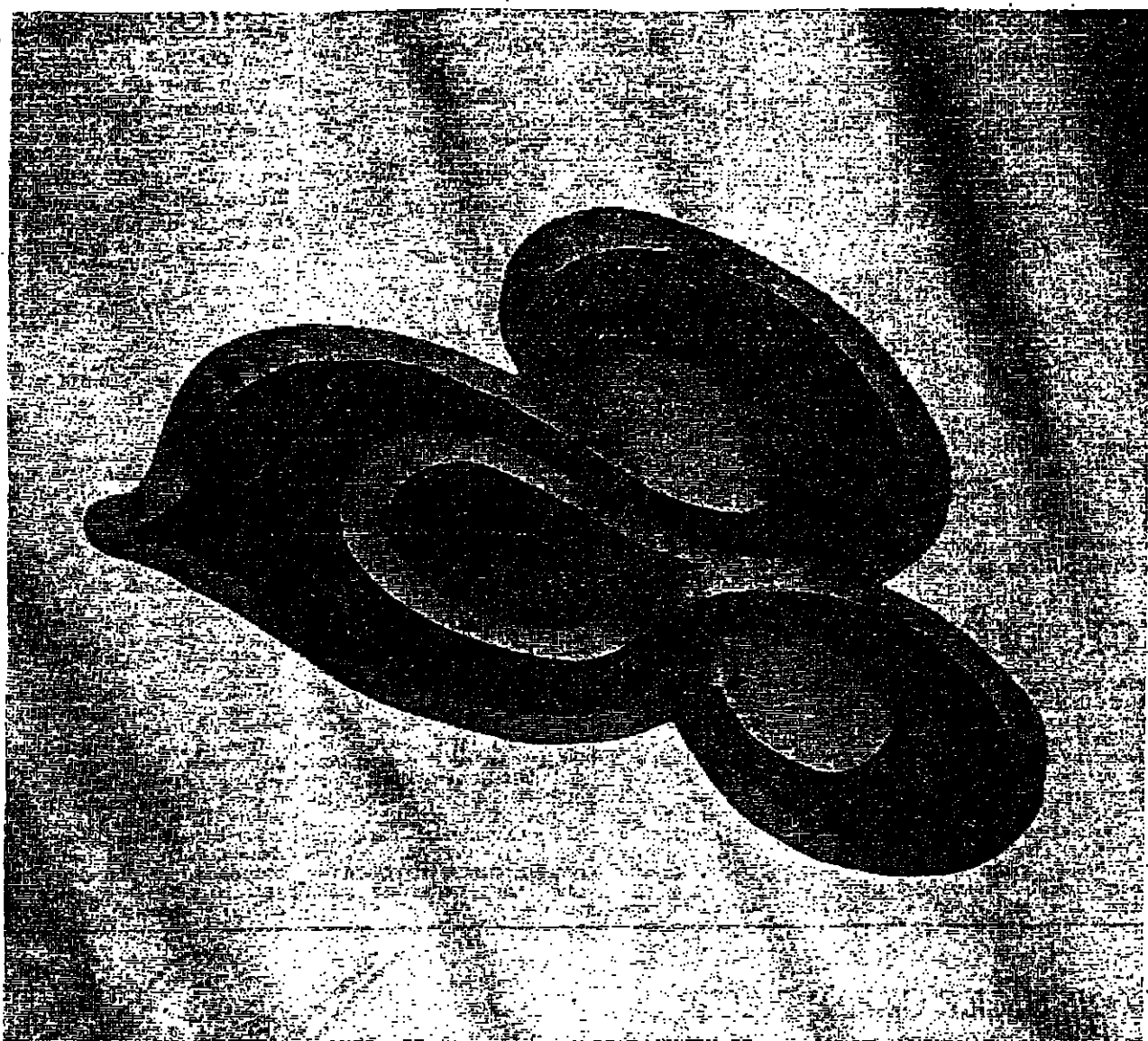
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THE COMMONWEALTH A Times Special Report

This year is a particularly significant one for the Commonwealth: The Queen celebrates the Silver Jubilee of her accession to the Throne, and the first Conference of Commonwealth Heads of Government to be held in London since 1969 will open on June 8th.

On the same day *The Times* plans to publish a Special Report entitled "The Commonwealth". This *Times* Special Report will be essential reading for all those with an interest in the Commonwealth and is a unique opportunity for advertisers who wish to reach the leaders of state, business and opinion in the UK, the rest of the Commonwealth and, indeed, all around the world.

The Report will examine the role of the Commonwealth in the World, the triangular relationship between Great Britain, the Commonwealth and the EEC, the activities of various official and unofficial Commonwealth organisations, as well as the structure, objectives and significance of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

The vital role of British and Commonwealth based Banks and other financial institutions in furthering trade within and beyond the Commonwealth will be examined closely, and a progress report made on the activities of the expert group set up in 1975 to explore how the gap between rich and poor nations might best be closed.

For further information, contact Anna Quick, *The Times*, New Printing House Square, Gray's Inn Road, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone 01-837 1234 Extension 7314.

OVERSEAS

New York to have another daily paper

From Peter Stafford

Plans are in motion for launching a new challenger into the competitive world of the New York press. The newspaper will be called *The Trib*. It will be a morning paper appearing five days a week, and is intended to offer a "moderate to conservative" alternative to the existing daily papers.

The backers of the new paper include Mr William Simon, who was Secretary of the Treasury in the Nixon Administration, and Mr James Buckley, the former senator, both of them known for their right-wing views. They believe that the *New York Times*, the *Daily News* and the *New York Post* all present variations of liberalism.

The driving force behind *The Trib*, and its largest stockholder, is Mr Leonard Saffir, who was Mr Buckley's chief assistant in Washington until last year. He said today that he hoped to produce a pilot issue in the next few weeks and to begin publication in earnest in the late autumn.

Mr Saffir was at pains to emphasise that the paper would not be an "ideological puff-sheet" for any particular faction or party, but at the same time he claimed that the *News* had moved "dramatically" away from its former conservative position, that the *Times* and the *Post* had long been "less liberal, and that the first New York needed a different viewpoint.

The Trib would be a tabloid, he said, but would be a serious paper, not a flashy one, covering international and domestic news. The idea was that it should be easier to read than the *New York Times* and would not aim to be a "newspaper of record" but would report all the important news, in depth when necessary.

Finance was not a problem at this stage. *The Trib* would be printed at a plant in New Jersey, 50 miles from New York, using computer technology. Mr Saffir hoped for a circulation of between 20,000 and 300,000 in and around New York.

He is not the first person to try to start a new paper in New York in the past few years, but the city has been a graveyard for several papers as a result of the flight of many members of the middle class and the reluctance of the printing unions to accept automation.

For many years Mr John Shabazz, a wealthy oil man, has been talking of starting a paper to be called the *New York Press*. Few people now expect to see that paper appear, at least in the near future.

Mr Saffir has certain credentials for running a paper which are unlikely to endear him to the unions. During the long newspaper strike of 1962-63, which lasted 114 days, he brought out a paper of his own called the *New York Standard*. He said today that he had earned \$1m from it.

Meanwhile the *New York Post*, which was taken over by Mr Rupert Murdoch, the Australian newspaper proprietor, at the end of last year, today claimed to have made one of the biggest circulations leaps in newspaper history by increasing its daily sale by 122,000 in just over two months.

Circulation of the *Post*, an evening paper, had been 618,973 on average last week, it said, making it one of America's best-selling newspapers. This compared with an average of 489,067 for the six months ending last September.

Briton held on drugs charge

Tel Aviv, May 16.—A British tourist, an Israeli woman resident in Britain and another Israeli have been remanded in custody for 14 days on charges of possession and sale of drugs including large quantities of LSD.

Police told the magistrates court here yesterday that Thomas Michael Young, 34, an American, was an undercover policeman posing as a pusher.

There was surprise among observers at this action against Mrs Mandela, who has endured almost non-stop persecution at the hands of the South African authorities, just before Mr Vorster, the Prime Minister, is due to have talks in Vienna with Vice-President Mondlane of the United States and at the United Nations conference on southern Africa opening in Maputo, Mozambique.

The decision, it is felt, can only sour the talks with the United States and cannot improve the prospect of anything useful emerging from the visit to South Africa later this week of Mr Andrew Young, the American delegate to the United Nations.

The two-day visit by Mr Young is planned to start on Saturday, according to the latest information, but it is likely that the American envoy will call it off as soon as he learns of the action against Mrs Mandela.

There was no sign of Mrs Mandela herself or of her children.

Durban, May 15.—A British holidaymaker was stabbed to death before hundreds of horrified onlookers here on Saturday night. The police said Mr Thomas Robertson, aged 54, of Manchester, was stabbed four times in the chest when he went to help his wife Ruth after three black youths had attacked her.

Mr Robertson was stabbed to death before hundreds of horrified onlookers here on Saturday night. The police said Mr Thomas Robertson, aged 54, of Manchester, was stabbed four times in the chest when he went to help his wife Ruth after three black youths had attacked her.



Mr Evan Luard, Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, talks to Mr Patrick John, Premier of Dominica, and Mr M. E. Charles, the island's Leader of the Opposition, before the opening of constitutional talks on independence at Marlborough House, London, yesterday.

President Machel supports Owen peace initiative on Rhodesia

From Nicholas Ashford

Maputo, May 16.—South African efforts to find a peaceful solution in Rhodesia and Namibia (South-West Africa) received qualified support today from President Machel of Mozambique and other speakers during the first day of the United Nations conference in support of the people of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) and Namibia.

But they were strongly attacked by the nationalists from the two territories, Mr Robert Mugabe, point leader of the Patriotic Front of Rhodesia, and Mr Sam Nujoma, President of the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO).

In an important speech at the start of the six-day meeting, which is being attended by representatives from over 80 nations as well as United Nations and other international organisations, President Machel said the new initiative launched by Dr David Owen, the Foreign Secretary, during his African tour last month could constitute a "positive factor" in the removal of the white regime in Rhodesia.

He said that it has a sincere objective the complete independence of the country. On Namibia President Machel said that the latest moves by

the five Western members of the Security Council could "contribute to the acceleration of the resolution of the conflict", so long as their aim was the full implementation of the Security Council's Resolution 385 on the territory. However, the West would fail if it was only trying to preserve its own interests there and those of the white minority.

Predictably enough, attacks on continued Western support for the white regimes of Southern Africa came from Mr Nujoma and Mr Mugabe, the two last speakers at today's session.

It is thought that it will take all the diplomatic skill of Mr Andrew Young, the American representative of the United Nations and Mr Edward Rowe, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, to prevent the adoption later this week of an African-sponsored set of proposals calling for unprecedented tough international action against Rhodesia, Namibia and South Africa.

In a speech which was strongly critical of Britain's "vacillation and indecision", Mr Mugabe totally ruled out American co-sponsorship of the proposed new round of constitutional talks.

Rhodesia was Britain's colonial responsibility, he said, and any future talks that might take place should only be between Britain, as the colonial power, and the Patriotic Front as the "authentic representative" of the people of Zimbabwe.

Mr Nujoma accused the five Western countries whose representatives are trying to achieve a negotiated settlement in Namibia of colluding with South Africa to protect their interests in the territory. He said that his week's visit by Western diplomats to Windhoek, where they held talks with delegates from the Turnhalle constitutional conference and other groups, was "illegal" and a breach of Security Council resolutions.

He said he was against the Western initiative, because it sought to place Swapo on the same level as the Turnhalle "puppets". Swapo would never agree to a compromise unless the Turnhalle representatives renounced their present positions.

Mr Nujoma's speech was his first considered reaction to the Western initiative on Namibia and follows two rounds of talks which he held with Western diplomats in Maputo yesterday.

Court told of shots near embassy

Nicosia, May 16.—A key witness in the trial of three men accused of killing Mr Roger Davies, the United States Ambassador to Cyprus, in 1974 testified today he had seen all three defendants enter a building near the embassy from which the fatal shots were said to have been fired.

Sergeant Stellas Stylianou, of the Cyprus Fire Brigade, said that he had been called to the United States Embassy to help to put out a fire started by anti-American demonstrators. He told the court that all three men were carrying guns when he saw them entering a building, about 200ft from the embassy.

Mr Davies, who was 53, and Miss Antonette Varnava, aged 31, a Greek Cypriot secretary, were killed during a demonstration on August 19, 1974, held to protest against American failure to stop the Turkish invasion of Cyprus.

The three accused are former Police Sergeant Ioannis Kimmas, aged 39, former Police Constable Lolis Savva, aged 36, and Mr Neophytos Lefis, aged 50, a mechanic. Sergeant Stylianou told the court that at the embassy he saw Mr Kimmas in the uniform of the National Guard, carrying an automatic rifle, with a spare magazine sticking out of his trouser pocket. Near him was Mr Lefis, also with a rifle. Then a police Land-Rover

arrived with Mr Savva in the front passenger seat carrying two more rifles, the witness went on.

Mr Savva left the rifles in the vehicle and joined the other two defendants. He was carrying a revolver at his waist. Three or four minutes after the three entered the building, Sergeant Stylianou said, he had heard shots coming from it. He saw Mr Kimmas and Mr Lefis standing in a window.

Sergeant Stylianou then heard shouts that the ambassador had been shot and later saw the three men leave the building.

The trial, in its second week, is expected to last another month. —Reuters.

Yale honour for British envoy in Washington

From Our Own Correspondent

Washington, May 16.—Sir Peter Ramsbotham, the British Ambassador in Washington, was praised for his vitality and durability when Yale University conferred an honorary degree on him at a ceremony.

The citation read: "In a world too often known only for formal courtesy and purely social representation, you have brought a vitality which has profoundly strengthened the ties between two nations. Your durability allowed you to survive our bicentennial with grace and spirit. Your ubiquitous

interest in all things American has helped us to discover ourselves, and also has aided your fellow countrymen to understand us."

"The happy relationship between the leaders of both the United Kingdom and the United States owes much to your personal brokering. Yale is delighted to welcome you in the ranks of her honorary alumni by conferring upon you the degree of doctor of law."

The degree was conferred by Dr E. H. Rieu, the next American Ambassador to Britain, who is resigning as president of Yale.

Djibouti elects its first prime minister

Djibouti, May 16.—Mr Hassan Gouled, president of the African People's League for Independence, was today elected Prime Minister of the French territory of the Afars and Issas.

Mr Gouled led the single list of 65 candidates who were elected on May 8 to the new legislative assembly. In a parallel referendum Djibouti voted overwhelmingly in favour of independence, which takes effect on June 27.

A 16-man Cabinet—seven Afars, eight from Somali tribes including Issas, and one Arab—was formed today.

Mrs Mandela banished to remote country village

From Our Correspondent

Johannesburg, May 16.—Mrs Winnie Mandela, the wife of Mr Nelson Mandela, former leader of the African National Congress who is serving a life sentence on Robben Island, and herself a leading black political activist, was today ordered out of Soweto and banished to the remote village of Brandfont in Orange Free State.

There was surprise among observers at this action against Mrs Mandela, who has endured almost non-stop persecution at the hands of the South African authorities, just before Mr Vorster, the Prime Minister, is due to have talks in Vienna with Vice-President Mondlane of the United States and at the United Nations conference on southern Africa opening in Maputo, Mozambique.

The decision, it is felt, can only sour the talks with the United States and cannot improve the prospect of anything useful emerging from the visit to South Africa later this week of Mr Andrew Young, the American delegate to the United Nations.

The two-day visit by Mr Young is planned to start on Saturday, according to the latest information, but it is likely that the American envoy will call it off as soon as he learns of the action against Mrs Mandela.

There was no sign of Mrs Mandela herself or of her children.

Durban, May 15.—A British holidaymaker was stabbed to death before hundreds of horrified onlookers here on Saturday night. The police said Mr Thomas Robertson, aged 54, of Manchester, was stabbed four times in the chest when he went to help his wife Ruth after three black youths had attacked her.

Talks on involving Swapo in Namibia elections

From Our Own Correspondent

Johannesburg, May 16.—Moves to involve the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) in elections in Namibia (South-West Africa) will be discussed in Windhoek today as whites in the territory vote in a referendum whether to accept the constitutional proposals drawn up by the multi-racial Turnhalle conference.

The Turnhalle "constitution" committee of 35 is meeting to discuss the talks between Turnhalle leaders and diplomats representing the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council that were held in Windhoek earlier this month.

Mr Dirk Mudge, chairman of the committee, said: "The primary purpose of our deliberations will be to consider a report by the financial committee of the Turnhalle. I think we can take it for granted that the Western proposals on South-West Africa will also be discussed."

These include free elections with the participation of Swapo under Western supervision or observation and suggestions on the form of an interim government other than that envisaged by the Turnhalle.

Turnhalle is the drift ball in Windhoek where the multi-racial conference was held. Mr Mudge added that the final draft of a constitution for an interim government would be considered by the committee and would be delivered to the South African Government as soon as possible.

WORKERS SAY NO TO THE SHAH Labour Law and Strikes in Iran

T. Jäili

with a foreword by Bob Wright, Assistant General Secretary A.U.E.W., a new book published by Campaign for Restoration of Trade Union Rights in Iran, BCM8 16, London WC1V 6XX.

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مركز العمل

Eve-of-election opinion poll shows Israeli voters could end supremacy of Labour Alignment

Sudan leader

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, May 16

President Nimeiry of Sudan arrived for his first official visit to France today and was greeted with full military honours at the Aulay Palace. The Sudanese leader d'Estaing. The Sudanese leader is accompanied by seven members of his Government.

He is staying during his three-day state visit at Hotel de la Marine, the Government guest house next to the Elysee Palace. He had a private talk with President Giscard this afternoon and

The Sudan Government is regarded by France as a moderate regime deserving encouragement in its attempt to resist the influence of Moscow. The visit of the French university professor with President Nimeiry wishing to establish himself as one of the leaders of the Arab world, on a par with those of Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

One point of likely disagreement in the talks is Sudan's moral and material support for

France

The Eritrean rebellion in the Horn of Africa has recently discouraged secessionist movements in Africa in the assumption that they would soon produce chaos on the continent. The final result will probably be determined by the developments in the Eritrean civil war, identified in the *Enfatah* communiqué.

President Nimeiry is said to be interested in the purchase of helicopters, Mirage aircraft, signals equipment, and army equipment, and French participation in various development projects.

Stockholm, May 16

About 1,000 children: have been insured in Addis Ababa, where their bodies, lying in the streets, were ravaged by scavenging hyenas, the Swedish Red Cross said today.

The Swedish ambassador, Carl von Lundenius, general secretary of the group, said it was sending a strong protest note to the Ethiopian Embassy, Stockholm condemning "the terrible executions."

He said that today that between 100 and 150 people are being slaughtered nightly in Addis Ababa, according to what he described as authoritative official Swedish sources.

Two weeks ago there was a major Ethiopian capital.

from the authorities
beating and executing with-
out mercy. "I heard about
Mr Landekins said that dead
00 children were massacred
in an "abominable
"pression" committed by the
government. The youngsters
are usually not buried, but
thrown in the streets by hyenas.
A probable reason was the
children's execution was for
not want they were forced to
fight arms because of the civil
life, he said.
We would not be so un-
taken about this if we were
not that they were per-
vinced in the reports," he
said.

for defence, they are only destruction, and cannot give us a win," Mr. Desai said.

Mrs. Gandhi, he said, therefore cannot trust the defence to protect her from nuclear arms, and "the language of the people." Only the people, he said, can be credible in its efforts to eliminate nuclear arms internationally.

Mr. Desai denied former President Nixon's assertion on American television last week that Mrs. Gandhi sought to "robustly" West Pakistan in 1971 war. "I do not believe Mrs. Gandhi could ever be thought of invading Pakistan," he said. "It is a wrong story," Mr. Desai declared.

fired on a march organized by the opposition Pakistan People's Party, killing three people on the spot. The angry crowd then stormed the house from which the shots were fired—only to be stopped by the firing of tear gas. The Peoples' Party was seriously wounding him.

Akhtar is a small but important village in the Muzaffargarh district, several miles to the west of the town. It is a hotbed of running battles waged on Friday and Saturday between civilians and security forces resulting in at least a dozen deaths in the last 40 hours.

Akhtar is a 40-kilometre-long, 400-acre village, a direct adult franchise, as the ruler writes. The Pakistan Parliament

affirmed voters have been called in to elect a new government. The extraordinary provision, intended to resolve the 10-week-old political crisis, was passed at two separate sittings of the National Assembly. No opposition was raised in either session. The opposition Pakistan National Alliance has not yet formally called for a boycott of the referendum.

According to the Bill the referendum will be held if he fails to win a majority of the votes cast. The electorate for the referendum, which will be conducted by the newly-constituted Referendum Commission, will be the basic voter list of the basic voter, direct adult franchise, as the ruler writes. The Pakistan Parliament

house next to the Elysée. He had a private talk with President Giscard this afternoon and

One point of likely disagreement in the talks is Sudan's moral and material support for

helicopters, Mirage aircraft, signals equipment, and army vehicles and in French participation in various development projects.

Addis Ababa, according to what he described as authoritative official Swedish sources: two weeks ago, there was a large fire in the Ethiopian capital.

"We would not be so taken about this if we were one hundred per cent convinced in the reports," he said.

"To believe Mrs Gandhi could ever have thought of invading Pakistan, it's a wrong story", Mr Sai declared.

dead and 40 injured in 48 hours.—Agence France-Presse.

Our Rawalpindi Correspondent writes: The Pakistan Parliament constituted Referendum Commission, will be on the basis of direct adult franchise, as in the recent general election.

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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of Botswana and Swaziland

(UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, BOTSWANA)

Applications are invited for two posts of **Senior Lecturer in Zoology** and the other for an **Assistant Lecturer in Zoology**. The successful candidates must hold a postgraduate degree in Zoology and have a minimum of 10 years' experience in the subject. These appointments are for a period of 3 years. The salary scale for these appointments is as follows: Senior Lecturer, P14-P19; Assistant Lecturer, P12-P14. For the first completed year of service the salary of 25 per cent of basic salary will be paid. The salary of 25 per cent of basic salary will be paid for the first year of service. The successful candidates will be required to teach and supervise students in the Department of Zoology. They will also be required to conduct research in the field of Zoology. The successful candidates will be required to teach and supervise students in the Department of Zoology. They will also be required to conduct research in the field of Zoology.

and participate with and share the responsibility for the larger than self for the benefit of the community.

Students of Botswana and Lesotho, who are interested in the University of Cape Town, should apply to the Registrar, University of Cape Town, P.O. Box 390, Rondebosch, Cape Town, 7700. Formal applications should be submitted to the Registrar, University of Cape Town, P.O. Box 390, Rondebosch, Cape Town, 7700. Formal applications should be submitted to the Registrar, University of Cape Town, P.O. Box 390, Rondebosch, Cape Town, 7700.

University of Cape Town
APPOINTMENT OF
REGISTRAR

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to be Registrar of the University of Cape Town.

The Registrar is the Chief Administrative Officer of the University and is responsible for the management of the central administration of the University, including the supervision of administrative and financial services in the University.

Applicants should be present from 10.00 to 12.00 noon on the day of the interview to discuss the successful applicant should submit a curriculum vitae and a letter of recommendation from the Registrar-Designate during the interview.

Interviewing committees are to be formed by the Registrar-Designate on this post.

For further information, please contact the Registrar, University of Cape Town, P.O. Box 390, Rondebosch, Cape Town, 7700. Formal applications should be submitted to the Registrar, University of Cape Town, P.O. Box 390, Rondebosch, Cape Town, 7700.

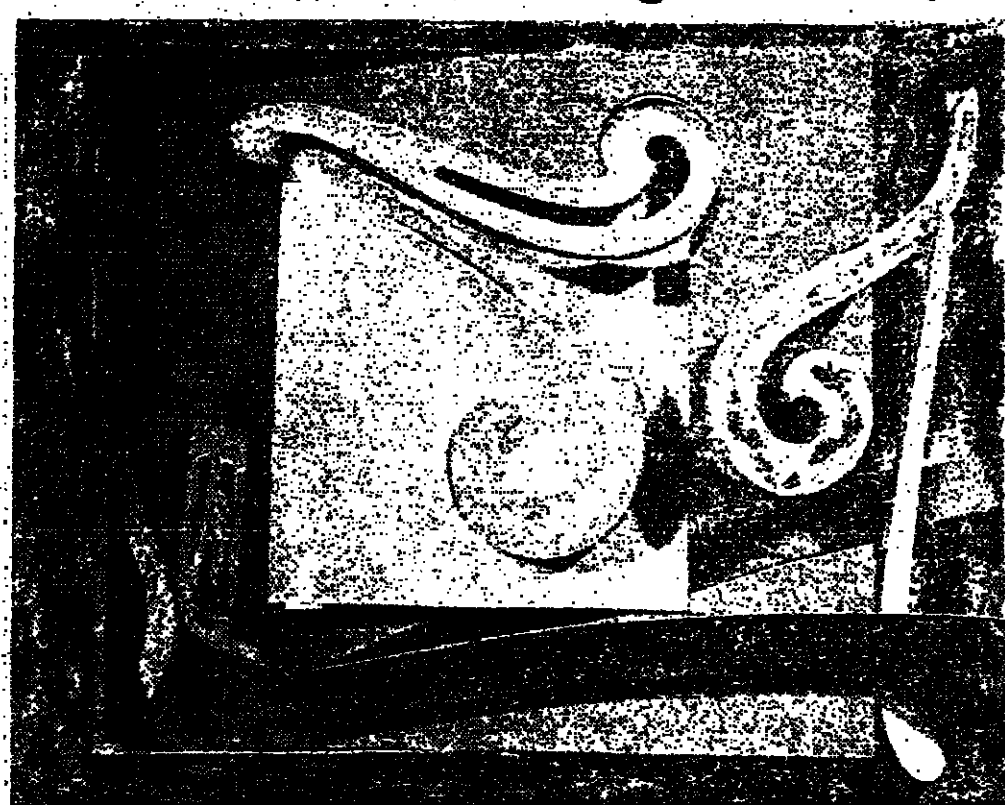
Confidential—Room No. 26 should reach the Registrar not later than 30th June, 1977.

هكذا من الاصل

ENTERTAINMENTS

THE ARTS

Frank Stella's exhilarating vitality



Frank Stella: Stella's albatross

In an interview in 1964 Frank Stella declared that there was no difference between his paintings and those of the abstract expressionists. The paintings did not stand for anything beyond themselves. "My painting is based on the fact that only what can be seen there is there. It really is an object. What you see is what you see." And replying to the interviewer's suggestion that this did not leave too much afterwards, Stella added: "I don't know what else there is. It's really something if you can get a visual sensation that is pleasurable, or worth looking at, or enjoyable, you can just make something worth looking at."

Thirteen years later, Stella's paintings are very different from those about which these words were spoken. Less minimal, more painterly, there is more to look at. The visual sensation is more pleasurable. Does that necessarily mean they are more worth looking at, because they are more enjoyable?

Of course, what Stella suggested in the interview was an impossibility. There is always more than just what is on the canvas. As Mondrian pointed out, even a blank square or circle is an image of something. Nevertheless, in his paintings of the early 1970s—simple, maze-like geometric compositions in a single flat colour—Stella gives you before he draws his tools. Works of the later 1970s were less symmetrical and frontal, the colours less dense and more decorative. The shapes in these were derived from projections and shadows of the objects in the foreground. In the early 1970s Stella began to make cardboard constructions, a break from the flatness of his earlier paintings.

His new work, now at the Museum of Modern Art, Oxford, consists of aluminium reliefs, often very large, to which paint is applied in a vigorous and strongly painterly way. The shapes which twist and curve from the background on to another root of the foreground, the French

curve. Despite this use of forms drawn from the making of art itself, the reliefs do not give the impression of being merely "self-referential" or art-about-art. They have a springing, vital self-sufficiency and charge of energy which propel them into the real world. The enormous *Albatross* (1976), hung at the end of the gallery, 13ft by 18ft, juts and spouts its forms from a rich and varied green background as exhilarating as a bright May day. The space of the huge museum gallery at Oxford is quite transformed and energized by these works, as it has rarely been before.

Nearly 20 years ago John Berger wrote that the question he asked of a work of art was whether it encouraged men to know and claim their social rights. I realize it is taking Berger over-literally, but if this huge work were placed in a dingy, depressing, Social Security office, the chairman might well be more confident in claiming benefit. Which is why, James Carter and

Callaghan are not going in for anything like Roosevelt's WPA today. Not that the rather tame figurative murals painted for the WPA in the Thirties can have inspired much social action. But the photographs taken for Roy Stryker's Farm Security Administration (an agency of the WPA) certainly did. The story of how Dorothea Lange's most famous picture, *Migrant Mother*, brought aid for the pea-pickers of California in 1936 is told in the catalogue of *The Compasionate Camera* exhibition, at the Central London Polytechnic (309, Regent Street, W1) until Friday. A book on the PSA, *A Vision Shared*, by Hank O'Neal, has just been published by the St James Press at £2.25; this contains many fine reproductions including a number of less-known photographs.

Many of the artists who worked for the WPA turned to Abstract Expressionism during the war years and after, as introverted, private style as if in reaction against the public

Jubilee BBC1

Stanley Reynolds

Age of Hypocrite, the eighth of BBC1's series of 13 plays reflecting in chronological order life in the last 25 years, got us to 1964, which saw a Labour victory and the start of Swinging Britain. Miss Fay Weldon, an artful playwright, managed to weave both into her play, and give us the emergence of the personality as a parliamentary candidate and the beehive hair-doo.

Actually, it was the beehive hair style that startled one the most. Could girls have actually worn their hair that way? I had quite forgotten those lacquered ballrooms. And wasn't it a bit unrealistic when Amanda Boxer, playing the personal assistant to John Carson's university lecturer/TV personality/Labour candidate, was seen in bed with her hair down? If memory serves, girls truly devoted to the beehive used to sleep sitting up in bed so as not to disturb those delicate hirsute domes.

Elsewhere the production rang true in spite of what seemed at first a highly melodramatic plot. Miss Weldon opened with Mr Carson and Gwen Watford telling their teenage daughter (Gwyneth Strong) that she was not their

RPO/Dorati Festival Hall

Thomas Walker

Although it is true more or less by definition that Haydn's *Die Jahreszeiten* is never out of season, that is the least of its merits. Another is its capacity to remind those of us who may have forgotten what weather is meant to be. A third is its inexhaustible fund of musical ideas that echo in many places, including the *Freischütz* and Beethoven's Ninth.

In performing a work which itself might have been germinated by crossing the Pastoral Symphony with the *Magic Flute*, a sensitivity to colour and mood of simplicity are vital. For it is true that Haydn's inspiration remains at fever pitch throughout, it is no less true that two and a half hours of narrative nature-painting place heavy demands on an orchestra's capacity for drama.

By those standards, indeed by any standards, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's account of the work on Sunday, conducted by Antal Dorati, was a joyful occasion, and one that several

Nelson Freire Queen Elizabeth Hall

Joan Chissell

The young Brazilian pianist, Nelson Freire, had not given a recital at the Queen Elizabeth Hall for ten years. After his return we must hope he does not stay away for another decade. Even in this virtuoso-sated age, his apparently effortless strength and fluency, allied with seductive sonority, made it no ordinary Sunday afternoon.

In a first half divided between César Franck and Ravel, *Gaspard de la Nuit* best displayed his liquid fingerwork and tonal magic. From an unassuming player, "Ondine" might have seemed hurried at his tempo. But his phrasing was fluid and graceful enough to evoke the water-sprite in her elusively slippery, supernatural allure.

"Le Gibet" with a finely weighted tolling bell, was spellbinding. "Scherzo" was recklessly fast, sometimes too fast to chill the spine as it can, though here again there was some remarkable tone-colouring.

Predictably, Franck's *Prelude, Choral et Fugue* ended in a blaze of triumph, with every

French ensemble not coming to London

The concert which was to have been given by the French ensemble, Collectif Musical International de Champigny, on

daughter, but their granddaughter. She had been born 13 years ago, when illegitimacy was a sin and a shame; the girl she thought of as an elder sister living in Canada was actually her mother. Miss Strong played both mother and daughter, switching from long hair for dow to the beehive for 1964.

That opening was rather a ripe piece of theatrics; but as the grandparents started to explain how it all came about, one was hooked. Miss Weldon was able to make it seem realistic and also showed us the hypocrisy and sexual taboos of the 50s so recent past.

There was a tremendous amount of cynicism in the play, at times a despairing sort of cynicism about politics and social relationships. If Miss Weldon was hard on men, pre-empting Mr Carson's character as a wishy-washy who lived only for the sound of his own voice, she was equally tough on women. Miss Boxer played a plouffer of women's lib, but a hard and very shallow character. The only way out of such a cynical, savage world was to opt out. The candidate lost the election, his wife sacrificed herself for her granddaughter; but the result was happiness. In spite of the running river of cynicism in the play, Miss Weldon surfaced like a retriever at the end with virtue in her mouth.

hundred more might have shared without creating a fire hazard in Festival Hall. Mr Dorati's impeccable credentials as an interpreter of symphonic Haydn were very much in evidence, but more impressive still was his ready sensitivity to pictorial detail.

I should have been happy had he taken some of the adagio movements, such as the choral prayer of "Spring", at a more aggressively low tempo. Of the many instances of fine playing by the woodwind, I must at least mention the agile choir of horns in the "Autumn" hunting scene. Only rarely was a trace of woodwind masking by insufficiently quiet strings.

Haydn also had the advantage of a strong team of soloists. Robert Tear in splendid voice, was specially rousing in the wanderer song of "Winter", and John Shirley-Quirk no less lustrous in his depiction of the hunt. A hint of strain in Jill Gomez's soprano had disappeared in the final scene, a rendition of the spinning song.

Three cheers for the Brighton Festival chorus! Not only were they fresh, responsive and in tune, but the sopranos' high B flats rang as easily at the evening's end as they had at the beginning.

conflicting strand given strong, clear-cut independence. Even if Mr Freire grew over-excited in the approaches to the Fugue and the Choral, the Prelude and also the Choral itself were beautifully timed and shaded, with an awareness of the composer's intentions in the

Moving on to Chopin, Mr Freire disappointed in the F minor Ballade by ignoring one of the most dramatic silences (just before those five, heaven-sent pianissimo chords) in all music. He kept the piece very much on the move, but beautifully fluid phrasing again saved the day. The C sharp minor (Op. 41, No. 1) and a minor ("M. Gaillard") mazurkas, again taken quickly and with some questionably insistent climaxes, were also redeemed by a stylish piquancy and elegance of phrasing.

Finally, to show-pieces, and predictably Mr Freire's sleight-of-hand in Godowsky's *Fledermaus* paraphrase drew cheers. But a prelude and a miniature suite, *As tres Marias*, by his compatriot, Villa-Lobos, thrilled me far more for the super-fine quality of sound extracted by such sensitive finger-tips.

Friday, at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, has had to be cancelled. The London Sinfonietta, who invited the Collectif to perform, have been informed that insurmountable difficulties make it impossible for them to come to London.

Some of the notices on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions.

Sotheby's

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 - Works of Art, Silver Part 4
 - Works of Art Part 5
- Tuesday 23rd May
 - Vincennes and Sevres Porcelain Part 1
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Details of the six further sessions will be published next Tuesday.

For further information telephone or write to: Sotheby's, Park Lane, London W1A 1AA

Telephone: 01-463 3050

Paris anatomizes The Magic Flute

There was a majority verdict of an unimpeachable kind, expressed in a unanimous fashion, on the Paris Opera's new production of *Die Zauberflöte* last weekend: that it was musically a success, visually a failure. Broadly speaking, the judgement seemed correct.

More than any other Mozart opera, or indeed any opera written up to its date, *Die Zauberflöte* is susceptible of interpretation. Something, a producer may reasonably feel, has to be done towards explaining how it is that an opera seemingly laden equally with obscurities and with trivialities can be so profound in its effect. Yet there is always a danger of producing the message: "however one takes it, *Die Zauberflöte* is a masterpiece rather than the opera Schikaneder and Mozart actually wrote. In France a masonic interpretation has been much favoured, and Franz Zankl's new production, by the Paris Opera, is no exception. It includes masonic symbols: the Speaker wears masonic devices, and so on. There is also much solar symbolism, with the sun and its rays variously portrayed, notably in piecemeal striped costumes which rather artfully are seen together, forming radiating beams, only in the closing tableau.

When I—and I think a good many others—found perplexing were the anatomical elements running through the settings. The opening scene was simply the specified rocky landscape, including a large mountain, rocks dividing it they should to disclose the Queen of Night. The three temples, however, are not Reason, Nature and Wisdom but Earth, Moon and Eyes. If the eyes have it, the mountain nose—and indeed nostrils are duly prominent in the first scene of Act II. A pair of huge, fibrous hands with claws appear as movable flaps; so do folds of tissue—respiratory, internal organs, as well as veritable (for so it seemed) running up in the wings. The tree, the moon, and even the rocky mountain seem to take on a veritable biological appearance. The Opera began to seem like an operating theatre. *Die Zauberflöte* may be a work about the wholeness of man, but in a sense somewhat more far-reaching than a display of his individual parts separately. The curious preoccupation with physiognomy has a group of freaks (a three-legged man, a four-breasted woman) dance to Tamino's flute rather than birds or animals suggesting the oneness of Man and Nature.

But there was much in the staging that was not practical, and truthful to Mozart and to Schikaneder. Trampdoors were used to good effect. The treatment of character was simple and without gloss or affectation. The priests' choruses were done with due formality, even if with some fussy trappings at the beginning of Act II. It was in principle that the production was a leaf borrowed from Ingmar Bergman's book, and it would have been better had the claret been disposed of before the sun; a big spiky, incandescent orb, attempted its find and, alas, dissipated its rays. There were other striking mishaps, one of which had the Boys sing their Act II rite offense, from a chorale swinging high in the flies—there had to be a second interval to set things right and fetch them down.

That, however, came opportunistically. The show had stopped anyway, for Kiri to Kanevsky had just sung "Ach, ich fühl's" in a way that, very properly, drew from the audience a bout of frenzied, rhythmic applause. When she had first appeared on the stage in Act I, fleeing from Mochostratos, she had sung that soaring phrase in a way that sends shivers through the spine and turns grown men's faces red with passion. Kiri Kanevsky's "Ach, ich fühl's" was characterized, to use inadequate descriptive critical terminology, by rich and intense tone, a precise placing of each note and phrase, and carefully timed and shaped cadences. It was a performance in thousands because it remained simple while being exceptionally beautiful and deeply felt. And all this was achieved, even surpassed, by her red-hot singing of the glorious F major music at her union with Tamino—not to mention the equal radiance of her stage presence.

But the first credit for the performance's musical excellence properly belongs to Kiri Kanevsky, who conducted a poised reading, measured without being noticeably slow, allowing due weight to woodwind detail, and firm in rhythm without inflexibility. Dr Böhm's wisdom and experience came out in his skilful control of the long finales, in his full but always lucid textures, in his insistence on sustaining each phrase right through to its end.



William Workman

lurique, appealing his to Platée. It is hard for us to feel much sympathy with a world in which ugliness is a matter for sport—not merely for childish teasing but for an elaborate, full-length evening in the theatre for an audience of supreme sophistication in the Paris of 1749. And I might add that nothing, during a surprising evening at the present revival by the Opera Comique at the Salle Favart, surprised me more than the laughter that greeted the gratuitously added closing spectacle, when Platée's finery is ripped from her by a couple of attendants and she is degradingly exposed.

Platée is an ugly marsh nymph, queen of the frogs, who fancies herself adored by all who see her. Kithaeron, a neighbouring king who has been a victim of her amorous hopes, hatches a plot with Mercury for her discomfiture and for the musing of Juno's jealousy: Jupiter will pretend to be enamoured of the marsh nymph. The whole is given a context by the prologue, "The Birth of Comedy", in which Thespis tells the satyrs and the maenads of the tale he is to present. The prologue was done at the Salle Favart with the poets and muses as vulgar, gaudily dressed eighteenth-century fops and raris, wearied by prolonged exercise of the rites of Bacchus and Venus.

In this production, by Henri Ronse, with costumes and settings by Benoit Moitteur quite as evocative and as colourful (you might say as tasteful) as his Covent Garden *L'elisir*, it was hard to be sure how much we were being invited to laugh against the opera and how much with it. The fierce visual dissonances and grotesqueries—the garish cerises, purples and oranges, for example, or the preposterous plumed helmets—imply a kind of cheap bad taste quite at odds with the music even when it is parodying itself; and the notion of having on stage some mechanics pretending to wind down Mercury's cloud can only make the whole

thing seem more artificial. Yet the *Schikaneder* was gleefully exploited. Perhaps that was the responsibility of Michel Sénéchal, who plays Platée, as he did in the famous earlier production given at Aix-en-Provence and at the Holland Festival. Mr Sénéchal is still marvellously funny, with his mingling and his posturing, his arch glances, his instantly deflatable dignity: the role is for a high level of artistry, and he is degradingly exposed.

Stanley Sadie

The Times Special Reports

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THE TIMES

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THE TIMES

Bristol still need a point more on Thursday to survive

Tense moments then QPR lift themselves clear

Results yesterday

Proposals made

McGeechan may miss first Lions' match

Meanwhile, New Zealand's selectors considered the problems posed by the poor goal-kicking performances of the four full backs in Saturday's two international trials in Wanganui. Rowlands, Bevan Wilson, Richard Wilson and Currie would manage only seven successful shots at goal in 12 attempts in the two encounters. The lack of a consistent goal-kicker in

Roger Uttley is making a special course of vitamins in an attempt to get fit to join the British Lions in New Zealand next week. Uttley, the England captain, is flat on his back at his Newcastle home after a fall from a horse which cost him a complete rest for a disc lesion. The England No 6, who has a history of back trouble, was injured about a week ago during a training tour preparation in Richmond.

Uttley is making large doses of vitamins B, C and E, supplied by a 58-year-old Welshman, Wynobus Thomas, who describes himself as a rugby supporter, travelled from his home in Porthcawl, Mid-Glamorgan, to visit Uttley and persuade him to take the course of vitamins.



Robson's fine effort helps to keep West Ham in first division

Neal may take over post at Middlesbrough

Today's football

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Gillingham v Football League XI (H) 12.30, Park, 3.0).

SECOND DIVISION: Bristol Rovers v Bolton Wanderers (7.30); Orient v City (7.30).

THIRD DIVISION: Swindon Town v Portsmouth (7.30).

FOURTH DIVISION: Newport County v Wokington (7.30).

ATHLETIC LEAGUE: Chesham v Leyton (7.30).

Stoke's brave struggle is not enough for reprieve

By Villa were able to recover mainly through the efforts of Crooks, Salmon and Conroy, who had been doubtful because of injury until shortly before the match.

With Villa in the lead and a high wind at their backs it should have left Stoke with their work cut out to prevent the Birmingham side from coasting ahead in the second half. As it turned out,

West Bromwich took the lead against Everton through Tony Brown in the 60th minute but surrendered a point five minutes later when Martin Dobson put a meat header past John Osborne.

Albion, who had created the better openings despite Everton having the major share of the play, broke the stalemate and lifted a mediocre game.

Glamorgan give young Australians a lesson

Shady background to proceedings at Bath

Somerset began the day, 75 minutes late, by adding 37 runs in the seven overs left to them in their first innings when rain ended Saturday's play. Of the seven Somerset wickets to fall Doshi took six: Botham, the other, was run out. Had I thrown the bat about as spiritedly as Botham did, I too would have looked indignant when Taylor tossed his head, as the bats-

ound to t Bath

T	W Naming, not out	0
	Extras	0
	Total (no wkt)	0
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings		
B	Hassan, c Richards, b Breakwell	37
P	A. Todd, b Botham	21
D	W. Randall, lb-for, b Woollery	12
	D. B. Jackson, b Burgess	2
	D. Johnson, c and a Breakwell	2
	M. J. Smadley, c Taylor	2
	Burgess	25
R	J. Harris, c Botham, b Dredge	34
R	D. R. Dooley, b Dredge	45
R	C. Cooper, c Taylor, b Dredge	7

Strangest ending under the sun

NOTTINGHAM: Nottingham
v Nottinghamshire II.

McCosker back in team to play Somerset

Rick McCosker, the Australian regular opening batsman, returns to the side at Bath tomorrow. This will be his first match after breaking his jaw in the centre of his eighth week ago.

McCosker, aged 30, arrived in England on Sunday and will travel to Bath today. He will open the batting against Somerset with a left-arm West Australian, the

Second XI competition

U. 127 for 6 (L. Sanborn)
NORTHAMPTON: Nottingham
4 (W. Haro 61, N. Nahan 54)
Richards 4 for 58; Northampton
87 for 3.

Today's cricket
COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP
BATH: Somerset v Nottingham

INSON AND HEDGES CUP (15.0)
HELMSFORD: Essex v Northampton
SHREVE: Derbyshire v Warwickshire

RAYFORD-UPON-AYON: HART
 ...shire II v Glamorgan II
 ...CESTER: Leicestershire II v Gloucestershire II

NOTTINGHAM: Nottingham
v Nottinghamshire II.

[illegible][illegible]

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was not a member of the specified union, unless the employee generally objected to a "religious belief" in which case the dismissal shall be regarded as "unlawful."

Mr. Rodger Bell for Mr. Sagers; Mr. F. Marr-Johnson for the Railway Board.

MR JUSTICE ARNOLD, giving the judgment of the Appeal Tribunal, said that Mr. Sagers' objection to the provisions of the National Union of Railwaymen on grounds of his religious beliefs, was a matter for argument, and how to approach construction of paragraph 5 (5) and how to apply it to the facts of the case.

The Commission, presiding in the Industrial Relations Act, 1971, related to a worker who objected to a union, on grounds of belonging to a union that had been changed in the 1974 Act to "religious belief." The industrial

was convinced that the individual claim was genuinely justified. It was possible to accept that his was his "religious belief". The belief of the sect would be a strong impediment to the individual's religious belief.

The Railway Board's submission was that since it was not clear they only had to examine the creed as a whole would not result in a satisfactory procedure.

The Appeal Tribunal had not reached any specific conclusion as to whether or not Mr. Sagers' objection to the provisions of the religious belief. The majority had concluded that a religious belief had to be an identifiable belief, and that the objection was founded on a sect. The case would be remitted to an industrial tribunal to consider whether or not the objection was founded on religious belief.

Solicitors: George D. Ide & Co. Chesham; Mr. D. H. Bagder.



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THE POSTMAN'S RIGHT TO STRIKE

In spite of Mr Michael Foot's strictures in his speech on Sunday, the judiciary have not yet made any ruling on the right of Post Office workers to strike. Since he spoke of the erosion of parliamentary decisions it may be worth observing that in the case he clearly had in mind, despite disclaimers, the judges showed more respect for statute than the Attorney General did. The *Gouriet* case is still under appeal, and as it has developed it only peripherally affects the rights of postal workers. Mr Gouriet could not have brought his civil action against the UPW if they had been acting in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute (as defined, pretty broadly, by the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act, 1974), instead of attempting, as they were, to mount a political boycott of a foreign country.

The right of postal workers to strike in their own interest is dubious. It was not seriously disputed during their 47-day strike in 1971, though Professor K. W. Wedderburn did draw attention at the outset to the fact that the Post Office Act, 1953 made it an offence punishable with imprisonment for any officer of the Post Office who "contrary to his duty wilfully detains or delays any postal packet or solicits another to do so." That seems plain enough on the face of it, though if construed of employment referred to procedures for industrial disputes, or anything of the kind, it might be possible to argue that striking

was not "contrary to duty". But from the discomfort Mr Tom Jackson has shown it must be supposed that this would not be easy.

Postal workers and policemen are almost alone among civilians in being denied the right to strike. Gas, water and electricity workers and similar disabilities removed by the Industrial Relations Act, 1974. The police, obviously have special responsibilities and disciplines. But it is difficult to argue that postal workers are more like the police than power workers. The consequences of a Post Office strike would be economically grave and could well be dangerous if, for instance, emergency telephone calls to doctors were obstructed. But the dangers of a gas or electricity strike, especially in winter, are probably greater.

If, in our society, workers in these categories face an urgent grievance over their working conditions or pay, it is in practice impossible to prevent them striking. Postal workers in the East End were striking only a few weeks ago over overtime schedules. The Government and the Post Office Corporation no more thought of taking them to court than Mr Heath's government did in 1971. It would have been folly to try.

Unenforceable law is bad law, and a simple amending Bill would not be objectionable. But two reservations need to be made. Unlike electricity and gas supply (and unlike tele-

communications, too, these days) postal services are uniquely well fitted for putting individual pressure on anyone anywhere. A postman's boycott would rapidly paralyse many kinds of enterprise and could be a cruel means of victimization. The recent case of Grunwick Laboratories shows that the union, if the law allowed, would not necessarily resist TUC pressure to apply such a boycott even in disputes in which it had no direct concern. Sympathetic "blackening" is a common, though often objectionable, union tactic. In the special circumstances of the postal service it would be an oppressive weapon, and legal sanctions against it are neither superfluous nor unenforceable.

In the 1971 strike the Government rightly suspended the Post Office's monopoly of the mails, so that others could offer some kind of alternative service. A government of a different complexion might have done so less readily. Any amending Act should make the suspension automatic for the duration of any major postal strike. The statutory monopoly was originally created to protect communications from the caprice of sectional interest, and if instead it makes them prey to it, it should be withdrawn. This is a rule that should apply generally, indeed, and not only in the Post Office. A monopoly, whether in the mails, on the roads or elsewhere, can only be justified as long as and if it serves the interest of the public.

PROGRESS OF THE KING OF SPAIN

The Spanish road to democracy is full of stumbling-blocks and potholes. King Juan Carlos and his government have not avoided them. They have stumbled many times, and each time the watching world has gasped and held its breath. Each time the pundits have nodded their heads and said, "Ah! We told you it wouldn't be so easy." In fact, no one believed it would be easy, and almost no one believed the young King would be equal to the task. Observers were divided into those who thought he had no intention of going beyond a facade of democratization, and those who thought he would like to go further but lacked the intelligence, or the determination, or simply the power to put his wishes into effect. Was he not the heir of Franco, owing his throne purely to Franco's will, surrounded on all sides and closely watched by Franco's lieutenants?

The fact is that we all underrated both his sincerity and his political skill. Indeed if he learnt anything from his education at Franco's court it must have been not the official conservative and authoritarian doctrine but the art of politics itself, and also, in great detail, the characters of the individual courtiers who could be relied on, and for what tasks. And so, by skillfully naming the right men to the right jobs at the right times, "Juan Carlos el Bravo"—the king who, according to the wits, would be enthroned and dethroned within the same week—has not only stayed on the throne for eighteen months but

has brought his country to within one month of a free general election. The "king of July 18" (heir, that is, only to the military uprising of 1936) is now the legitimate heir of the Bourbons, by consent of his father who was always rightly convinced that the monarchy would survive in Spain only if it became constitutional.

Even more strikingly, he has won the allegiance of democratic opposition leaders (among whom one may hesitantly class those of the Communist Party) whose background and prejudices are definitely republican, and who eighteen months ago were convinced that reform of the dictatorship from within was not possible, that a "democratic rupture" was essential, who, even last autumn were warning their homologues in other West European countries not to be taken in by the "pseudo-reform" of the Suarez government.

The choice of Señor Suarez as prime minister was no doubt the shrewdest single move the King has made; and since Señor Suarez has somehow clambered out of all the previous potholes, with an enhanced reputation, it would be foolish to suppose that he will not get himself out of the one he is at present negotiating in the Basque country, serious though it undoubtedly is. The Basques are demanding an amnesty for their remaining political prisoners, who are said by the government to number only twenty-seven and to be perpetrators of violent crimes. There seems to be a serious danger that, if this request is

not granted, or at least if some compromise is not found, the Basque political parties will boycott the elections—thereby endangering the legitimacy of the election result for the country as a whole.

The Basques do not accept that all the people concerned were directly implicated in acts of violence. Some have not yet stood trial, others were convicted under very summary procedures, yet others were not proved to have personally inflicted death or injury. But even those who did, the Basques say, were only exercising a right recognized in constitutions and Bills of rights the world over, the right to resist oppression. That the Basque country was oppressed under Franco could hardly be denied. Nor can it be denied that traces of that oppression still remain, in the shape of habits formed by the police and the civil guard over many years and, alas, not easily unlearned.

An amnesty covering crimes of violence against the dictatorship can logically be expected at some point, though it is understandable that the government should wish to wait until the elections are safely over rather than risk provoking further discontent among the forces of law and order now, and certainly understandable that it should take a less lenient view of crimes of violence committed while its own efforts to introduce democracy in already difficult circumstances were under way. The Basques should have the good sense to recognize these points and a sensible compromise should be reached.

BUT WAS NOT MR JUSTICE WIEN MISTAKEN?

The belated fit of common sense which has seized Sir James Goldsmith and those involved with *Private Eye*, enabling them to settle the proliferation of legal differences between them, is to be welcomed. If *Private Eye* has, in the past, pursued a vendetta against Sir James, as he claimed, then his response was equally a legal vendetta against the magazine, which could have threatened its existence. Whatever relief might be felt at the ending of the feud is, however, tempered by a sense of loss at some of the legal loose ends which remain.

The most important unanswered legal point concerns the status of the offence of criminal libel, when allegedly committed by a newspaper. By the Law of Libel Amendment Act, 1888, the consent of a High Court judge is required before any criminal prosecution for libel can be instituted against a newspaper or other publication. That consent was obtained by Sir

James From Mr Justice Wien in April last year. Although the defendants wanted to challenge the correctness of that affirmative decision by the judge, the law provides no avenue of appeal. That itself is unsatisfactory, and ought to be remedied by legislation granting a defendant the right of appeal under those circumstances.

Now, with formal verdicts of not-guilty being directed by the judge against the defendants facing the charges of criminal libel, after the prosecution had offered no evidence, Mr Justice Wien's decision can no longer be challenged, as it undoubtedly would have been, probably to the House of Lords if necessary, had the case continued. The point at issue is, simply, whether a criminal prosecution for libel lies where there is no threat to the peace and no wider public interest involved.

Mr Justice Wien considered that the breach of the peace element was not a necessary

ingredient of the offence. His view appears to be supported by a 1935 case in the Court of Appeal, *R v Wicks*. But there is also a great deal of case-law, and legal opinion, in text-books, and elsewhere, suggesting that, unless there is a threat to the peace, a charge of criminal libel should not be brought. That interpretation is to be preferred. The person defamed can bring a civil action for damages for libel, and the criminal law should not step in where the dispute is essentially between two parties, the wronged one of whom does not remain without a remedy. In other words, for a criminal prosecution to lie, there should be some element which carries the case outside the confines of a bilateral dispute and gives it a public dimension, necessitating the possibility of penal intervention by the state. It is a pity that the higher courts were not given a chance to declare the law on this narrow, but important point.

From Mr David Rosen
Sir, The scarcity of cyclists on the cycle tracks along the Oxford ring road (Letters, May 11) is a reflection on the planners, rather than the cyclists. Unless one is very fit, the bicycle is a short distance vehicle, ideal for journeys of between one and five miles. Thus it is not surprising that few cyclists use the ring road, as it is mainly of use to vehicles by-passing Oxford on a long journey. Any cyclist on such a trip would in any case tend to go through the town in order to reduce distance.

If Mr Leeming were to visit Oxford, he would find the missing bicycles engaged in travelling about the town. It is here that the bicycle is most useful and where provision for cyclists must be made. Yours faithfully, DAVID ROSEN, Imperial College of Science and Technology, Astronomy Group, Prince Consort Road, SW7.

Planning for bicycles
From Mr Howard N. Boyd
Sir, Mr J. J. Leeming's letter (May 11) raises an interesting point about the cycle paths which like many of our pre-war dual carriageways. Cyclists have found from experience that their surfaces are usually inadequately maintained and often covered with broken glass or fine gravel from the carriageway. There is a chain reaction—as the usage declines, so local authorities are less disposed to spend ratepayers' money on maintenance, and clearance. A far more serious objection is that these cycle paths protect cyclists where they need least protection—along unsurfaced stretches of road. The vast majority of accidents involving cyclists occur at junctions, and roundabouts are particularly dangerous to cyclists. The pre-war cycle paths characteristically stop just short of every junction and compel the cyclist into the maelstrom of the traffic, often

Next Ambassador in Washington

From Sir Ian Gilmore, MP for Chesham and Amersham (Conservative)

Sir, You criticize me (*The Times*, May 16), in a friendly way, for having drawn attention to the blatant jobbery involved in the precipitate removal of our excellent Ambassador in Washington and his replacement by Mr Peter Jay. Yet Mr Jay's appointment is surely the most spectacular act of nepotism for decades, and your remark that "the fact that Mr Jay is the Prime Minister's son-in-law has nothing to do with it" is astonishing. Nepotism can be defended as a good way of bringing on young and able people like Mr Jay, though that is certainly not a Socialist view. But to imply, as you and others have done, that because the beneficiary is an able man, there is no nepotism, is untrue. Do you seriously believe that if Mr Jay had not been the son-in-law of the Prime Minister and the close friend of the Foreign Secretary, he would have been given the Washington Embassy? Of course he would not even have been considered.

While Mr Jay's considerable abilities are undoubtedly, they will not necessarily make him a good Ambassador. Given his reported opposition to Concorde, his distaste for the EEC and his evident belief that the British political and economic systems are doomed, hardly make him an obvious choice as the ambassador in America of present day Britain.

We must all hope, nevertheless, that Mr Jay will be successful in Washington. Even so, patronage is patronage, and nepotism is nepotism, and nothing is gained by halting them as triumphant meritocracy. I am, Sir, your obedient servant, IAN GILMORE, House of Commons, May 16.

Minister's family will undoubtedly be seen as a complimentary gesture in respect of Mr Carter's open and homely approach to government administration, international diplomacy, and indeed Anglo-American relations. If we are to believe what we have read about the Callaghan-Carter report, then the family tie is, if anything, an added plus in Mr Jay's favour.

Very sincerely,
SUSAN HART,
64 Windsor Road, N7.

From Sir Jack Lyons
Sir, As Britain's Chairman of the Bicentennial Arts Committee (Parliamentary and Commonwealth Office) I wish to express my appreciation for our country's tribute to the United States of America in 1976, there were several occasions when I worked closely with Sir Peter Ramsbottom in Washington.

I found that not only was he personally respected by the Americans I met in government and those associated with the arts and education, but that he earned a high level of respect and esteem for Great Britain during one of the most difficult periods of our history. He achieved this by his immense dedication to his job and because of his natural and friendly way of getting to the hearts and minds of Americans in numerous cities, towns and villages across that vast continent.

His knowledge and appreciation of the arts brought Sir Peter into close contact with the cultural life of America which helped to maintain and enhance further the cultural and common heritage of our two nations. His successor, no doubt deserving of the post, has a great Ambassador to follow and to emulate. Yours faithfully, JACK LYONS, Blundell House, 2 Campden Hill, W8.

From Miss Susan Hart
Sir, I confess that I too am shocked over the case of Mr Peter Jay's appointment as Ambassador to Washington. The apparent chorus of outcries is another example of disharmony so often afflicting parliamentary debate—another case of much ado about nothing. The fact that Mr Jay is the son-in-law of the Prime Minister, building mountains from the depths of a mole hill. As for the appointment itself, it is an excellent choice made, after all, by the man best qualified to choose ambassadorial material, the Foreign Secretary.

It is a sorry comment, indeed, on parliamentary judgement (another manifestation of the "English disease", perhaps), to suggest that Mr Jay should refuse the post simply because he married a woman whose father happened to become Prime Minister. Furthermore, nepotism of which Callaghan is accused, is the bestowal of undue favour. To my mind Mr Jay is due every bit of the favour, involving a 20 per cent cut in earnings, he is about to receive for the excellence of his work as a newspaper and television journalist, both here and in the United States, and for his contributions while a civil servant.

Do not forget either that he is being sent to Washington, DC. Not enough has been said about the reaction his appointment will generate in that community and surely this should be paramount in the decision in the choice of an Ambassador. Not only is he known to and respected by East Coast government officials, diplomats, and journalists, but he has visited the country at large during his previous working visits to the US. Thankfully Mr Jay is young and extremely intelligent, which as a Washingtonian myself I can at last with great relief report, is characteristic of many of the new civilian army of public servants. Both he and his wife will be well received and easily accepted.

Finally, do not underestimate the new mood abroad in Washington and the fact that Mr Jay is a member of the Prime

From Mr George Ivan Smith
Sir, The record of Sir Peter Ramsbottom requires no defence, however it is fitting that I should record the vitally important role that he played during the Suez crisis. I happened to be one of a small team working with Hammar, skilful throughout that period. I can attest that Sir Peter did more to heal the bridge and to comprehend the dimensions of the crisis than any other British or French diplomat in fact he did more to resolve the terrible problem than any other diplomat involved in the crisis. Yours faithfully, GEORGE IVAN SMITH, Home Farm, Lyptott, near Stroud, Gloucestershire.

From Lord Reading
Sir, Mr Philip Noel-Baker (May 13) quotes simple precedents for "political" appointments to the British Embassy in the USA, the earliest being that of the late Lord Latham. It may not be without interest to recall that, 22 years before Lord Latham was appointed to Washington, my grandfather, then Lord Chief Justice, was appointed Ambassador and High Commissioner to the USA. He remained Lord Chief Justice throughout his relatively brief tenure of the Embassy and subsequently resumed his judicial functions, but his appointment at the personal request of President Wilson, was undoubtedly "political". Yours faithfully, READING, May 13.

From Mr Hugh Leggatt
Sir, The people of Bermuda are to be congratulated on the appointment of such an able and fair-minded administrator as their new Governor. I should know, I was once Sir Peter Ramsbottom's flag at Eton. Yours faithfully, HUGH LEGGATT, 30 St James's Street, SW1, May 16.

Execution with drugs

From Dr Alan Gilston
Sir, I read with horror in *The Times* (May 12) that the American state has adopted a method of execution which involves intravenous injection of drugs. This debasement of a medical technique recalls Nazi Germany. Who will advise the drug and if it is not a doctor, as I sincerely hope, who will train the executioner? Yours faithfully, ALAN GILSTON, Department of Anaesthetics, St Mary's Hospital, Westmoreland Street, W1.

Labour and the banks

From Mr Yorick Wilks
Sir, Mr Norman Atkinson's ingenious letter (May 10) about nationalizing the big four banks has both too little and too much, according to one's taste for nationalization. He argues correctly that we are moving towards a cashless society, which will require an enormous system of computer terminals, computers and telecommunications, and control. The last is essential and at present the monopoly of the Post Office, hence we might as well have a state bank.

If use of the telecommunications network controlled by the Post Office (so as to pass computer data) is to be a criterion for being nationalized, then there is no need to stop at the joint stock banks. Virtually all large and technologically efficient companies either pass data between computers by phone already, or very soon will. Thus, Mr Atkinson proves too much, for he could use the same argument to nationalize almost anything.

On the other hand, he proves too little, for if efficiency is to be the criterion in these matters (and Mr Atkinson uses the word more than once), then we must ask why the Post Office is allowed to have a total monopoly over state transmission of computer data. It will come as no surprise to your readers to know that in the United States the Post Office has, and seeks, no

such monopoly, and that inter-computer transmission of information is in a far more advanced and efficient state there. Perhaps the cashless Utopia in which Mr Atkinson looks forward would be achieved more efficiently than he realizes, with less, rather than more, nationalization. And what could reconcile people more to that state than to know that the Government-controlled Post Office would not have access, through its transmission lines, to every single one of its citizens' monetary transactions? Yours sincerely, YORICK WILKS, University of Essex, Department of Language and Linguistics, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex.

From Mr L. F. Holliday
Sir, Mr Norman Atkinson (May 10) writes that the big banks have no mandate to dissipate the deposits of their customers by lending money to "lame ducks". It is essential and crucial that the banks maintain their stability and financial soundness.

During the depression years of the nineteen thirties when financial establishments all over the world were collapsing and causing economic chaos, the British banks stood firm and they have remained so since. Does the treasurer of the Labour Party wish to destroy this financial soundness? Yours faithfully, L. F. HOLLIDAY, 5 Cumberley Court, Rotherfield Avenue, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex.

Jubilee decorations

From the Director of the Design Council
Sir, The short answer to Sir Brian Bedford's question (Letters, May 16) is clearly "No". Yours faithfully, PAUL REILLY, The Design Centre, 28 Haymarket, SW1.

On the other hand, he proves too little, for if efficiency is to be the criterion in these matters (and Mr Atkinson uses the word more than once), then we must ask why the Post Office is allowed to have a total monopoly over state transmission of computer data. It will come as no surprise to your readers to know that in the United States the Post Office has, and seeks, no

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Heredity factors in earning capacity

From Professor H. J. Eysenck

Sir, Neville Hodgkinson's account in your Friday issue (May 13) of the important work done by geneticists to document the overwhelming importance of genetic factors in determining differences in earnings, social status, and other social characteristics does not mention one issue which powerfully impressed itself on me when I was giving evidence on these points to the Royal Commission on the Distribution of Income and Wealth.

The members of the Commission are politicians, industrialists, trades unionists, economists, sociologists and the like: not one is a psychologist, biologist, or geneticist! This disproportion is bound to affect the deliberations and conclusions of the commission, and in spite of the strength of the biological factors in determining the differences in earnings which are the subject of the whole enterprise, it seems unlikely that the commission is in a position to do justice to these factors, or discuss their contribution knowledgeably.

This strange and somewhat odd situation illustrates well the swing of the pendulum which has elevated environmentalist doctrines, however poorly supported, into positions of dominance and influence, and has relegated biological teachings, however strongly supported by experiment and analysis, to the backwater of intellectual debate. By the same token, we find environmentalist socialists, however poorly supported, have been a neglected and planned, supported by universities and research-granting bodies, while there is little money for demonstrably important genetic and generally biological behavioural investigations.

The almost indecent growth of sociology departments during the past dozen years, leading to a sad devaluation of academic criteria in that subject, has not been paralleled by a similar growth in the number of genetics departments: behavioural genetics in particular is almost confined to two or three

departments in this country, with little prospect of growth.

I would like to suggest that it is time for the pendulum to start swinging in the opposite direction—hopefully without overshooting the desirable middle mark where both genetic and environmental influences are given the weight they deserve on factual grounds! As a beginning, perhaps the commission might be persuaded to add some biological, genetic and general psychological experts to their number: I am sure that their deliberations would be much aided by such an addition.

Yours truly,
H. J. EYSENCK,
Department of Psychology,
Institute of Psychiatry,
De Crespigny Park,
Denmark Hill, SE5.
May 13.

From Dr C. J. Todes
Sir, A considerable claim is made in *The Times*, Friday, May 13, for the general value of the study of twins' earning capacity. The fact that Dr Taubman's work is a study of twins makes it invalid for extension to the ordinary population.

The personal experience of twins in growing up, in so far as they have each other as near mirrors for comparison, must be quite different from the rest of the population. This predisposes them to a different order and quality of competitive or cooperative experience and would influence the results in the direction of Dr Taubman's findings.

Once again, as in the debate on intelligence, with the supporters of heredity living up against the environmentalists, there has been a neglect of the individual's ongoing experience and expectation as vital influences on the outcome of the research. I wonder if both sides are aware of personal interests in such an omission?

Yours faithfully,
CECIL TODES,
Consultant Psychiatrist,
33 Clifton Hill, NW8.

Plea changes

From Dr John Baldwin and Dr Michael McConville

Sir, We write in response to the article by your Legal Correspondent of May 10 and the letter you publish from the Chairman of the Bar (May 12) concerning our stay of pleas of guilty in the Crown Court. We regret as much as anyone that there has been so much speculation in the press based upon a premature and inaccurate leak about our book *Negotiated Justice* to be published in the autumn. Our competence and integrity as researchers are matters for others to judge, and the Chairman of the Bar is, of course, fully entitled to express the view that our "research" is not possibly as described in the book and on that basis to reject it.

We do not propose to discuss at this stage the substance of our book, though it is necessary to deal with some of the points raised by Mr Webster. The correction of alleged injustices raises a perennial problem for researchers, whether to intervene in individual cases or to remain detached. We foresaw this ethical dilemma at the outset and our position was made clear in the book. It was made clear to the Bar in September 1974) that it would have been quite wrong to have attempted to influence the outcome of individual cases. To have done so would have jeopardized the whole research, because of the guarantees of anonymity and confidentiality to all parties that such studies necessarily involve. On occasions, we informed defendants at the end of the interview of their rights of appeal, but it was made clear to them at the outset that the purpose of the interview was not to assist them in any way. The important point, it seems to us, is that a statement about the operation of the legal system, it could have the long term benefit of helping other defendants similarly placed. The Bar's stance on this is quite understandable, but we as researchers are obliged to take a different view.

We had, at various times since July, 1974, discussed ways in which individual barristers might be involved in our main research but, despite the willingness of barristers in the Midlands and Oxford Circuit to cooperate in the study on the lines we proposed, the Senate of the Bar refused to allow them to participate. In our last approach, as your Legal Correspondent reported, we offered the Bar an opportunity to contribute a statement about the matters raised in *Negotiated Justice* and we assured the Bar that this would be included in the book. For reasons, which have not been communicated to us, the Bar has rejected this offer.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BALDWIN,
MICHAEL MCCONVILLE,
Institute of Judicial Administration,
Faculty of Law,
The University of Birmingham,
Birmingham.

Tony Greig's dismissal

From Mr Stephen Hodges

Sir, In his article on the decision to dismiss Tony Greig, England Test Captain (May 14), John Woodcock writes, "no one is likely to be convinced that he has acted less than miserably as the reigning captain." Mr Woodcock is wrong in his assumption that his views are shared by the world, but if such an attitude is rather pompous, it is, nevertheless, relatively harmless. What is inexcusable, in my opinion, is the way in which Mr Woodcock exploits Greig's "miserable" conduct.

"What has to be remembered, of course, is that he is an Englishman not by birth or upbringing, but only by adoption. It is not the same thing as being English through and through." At best this might be a misguided attempt to rationalize what Mr Woodcock sees as a lack of patriotism on Greig's part. At worst this is shabby and objectionable chauvinism, which will become *The Times* front page. Yours faithfully, STEPHEN HODGES, Staplegrave, 6 Church Street, Middlesbrough.

'Badger Watch'
From Mr Reginald Williams
Sir, What a pity Michael Church does not possess the capacity to appreciate the simple things of life.

Henry James at Mentmore

From Mr Charles Anderson

Sir, On November 28, 1880, Henry James wrote to his mother in America an account of his weekend visit at Mentmore that seems relevant to the current agitation about that Victorian palace. Here it is:

"This is a pleasant Sunday, and I have been spending it (from yesterday evening) in a very pleasant place. 'Pleasant' is indeed rather an odd term to apply to this gorgeous residence, and the manner of life that prevails in it; but it is that as well as other things besides. Lady Rosebery (it is her enviable dwelling) asked me down here a week ago, and I stop till tomorrow am. There are several people here, but no one very important, save John Bright and Lord Northbrook, the last Liberal Vicar of India. Millais the painter has been here for part of the day, and I took a walk with him this afternoon back from the stables, where we had been to see three winners of the Derby trotted out in succession. This will give you some idea of the scale of Mentmore, where everything is magnificent. The house is a huge modern palace, filled with wonderful objects accumulated by the late Lord Rosebery de Rothschild, Lady R's father. All of them are precious and many are exquisite, and their general Rothschildish splendour is only equalled by their profusion. . . . They are all at afternoon tea downstairs in a vast, gorgeous hall, where an upper gallery looks on like a veritable colosseum. The chairs are all golden thrones, belonging to ancient Doges of Venice. I have retired from the glittering scene to meditate by my bedroom fire on the fleeting character of earthly possessions."

Many years later these meditations flowered in one of James' finest short novels, *The Spoils of Poynton*. But a few weeks later, in a letter to his mother on January 10, 1881, he added a postscript on the walls of Mentmore. From another Rosebery residence, The Durdans, "a small so-called bachelor house at a sporting character, close to Epom Downs," he wrote: "This is a delightful house, full of books, of entertaining old sportsmen, (to say nothing of several charming Gainsboroughs and Watteaus), and worth to my mind a hundred times over all the grandeur of Mentmore." Yours, CHARLES ANDERSON, Church Cottage, Linton, Cambridgeshire.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 16: The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visited the Chelsea Show of the Royal Horticultural Society in the Gardens of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, this evening.

The Duke of Gloucester left Heathrow Airport this morning for Venice, in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight. His Royal Highness will be attending the celebration of the restoration of the church of St Mark in Venice, and will also visit the Campo Ruggo municipal housing project.

LEICESTER
May 16: The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, left England today for a visit to Sweden.

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May 16: Princess Alexandra and the Hon Angus Ogilvy this morning visited Elgin City Sawmills Limited, Morayshire.

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Princess Alexandra and the Hon Angus Ogilvy were present this evening at a Fiddlers' Rally, in aid of The Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal, at the Fiddlers' Hall, at Reston.

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The Queen at her desk in Windsor Castle yesterday with her diary of engagements for the silver jubilee tours of Britain, which begin today with a visit to Glasgow.

Hongkong collectors vie for Ming items

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

The rich collectors of Hongkong like to be seen to be buying the best. They did it yesterday to startling effect over an early-fifteenth-century blue-and-white Ming porcelain stoneware which was sold for HK\$1,150,000, or £142,243.

The cup was in a Sotheby's sale in London in 1971, when it fetched £40,000, which was then considered a very high price. Yesterday's bidders were prepared to pay at least HK\$1,150,000.

It was the most distinguished item in the sale and thus presumably the piece that the collectors wanted to be seen to buy. But prices for imperial mark and period wares were consistently strong.

A fine and rare auburn-wood-cupped engraved bowl with the six-character mark of the Emperor Wan Li (1573-1619), measuring six inches across, was sold for HK\$360,000 (estimate HK\$250,000 to HK\$350,000), or £44,832 to T. Y. Chao.

The Hongkong Museum of Art acquired a rare Wu Tsai fish bowl, 18 inches across, with the six-character mark of the Emperor Wan Li. Large cisterns of such a kind for goldfish were among the most ambitious products of the late Ming porcelain factories.

Prices for export and non-imperial wares were much less predictable. Two large (17-inch) blue-and-white porcelain vases were sold for HK\$50,000 and HK\$32,000. One of the most outstanding pieces among the later pieces was HK\$120,000 (estimate HK\$70,000 to HK\$180,000) for a pair of plain but perfect green-glazed bowls each five inches across. They bear the six-character mark of the Emperor Yung Cheng (1723-35).

A pair of chrysanthemum-shaped dishes, painted with blossoms in Chinese luster, bearing the same mark and measuring six inches across, were more predictably priced at HK\$120,000 (estimate HK\$100,000 to £14,944). There was little demand for damaged pieces. The sale totalled £712,951 with 11 per cent unsold.

At Sotheby's in London yesterday a sale of valuable printed books made £182,583 with 12 per cent unsold. The top prices were for a pair of Chinese books, all secured for heavily illustrated works. That follows recent trends as decorative old prints are in strong demand.

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Impressive show at Chelsea

By Our Horticultural Correspondent

The Chelsea Flower Show has gained a varied experience. It has passed through the Staff College. He served with his regiment. He saw active service in the Middle East. He was Military Attaché in Budapest and Vienna. He was Chief of the Staff of the Royal Military Academy, and when the war broke out he was commanding an artillery regiment which he took to France with the BEF.

He was soon appointed to the post of Chief of the Staff of the GSO 1 to General Alexander. This was the beginning of a long and happy association between them. When Alexander succeeded Dill in command of the 1st Corps, Morgan was promoted to Brigadier and then to Major-General. He did splendid service in the advance of the Corps to the River Dyle when the Germans invaded Belgium in May, 1940, in the two weeks fighting which fol-

lowed, and at Dunkirk. During the evacuation, Morgan was first confined to the Staff as Chief of Staff of the 1st Division, and then as Chief of Staff of the 1st Corps, and they did it with great skill.

On his return to England, he served as Chief of Staff of the 1st Division, and then as Chief of Staff of the 1st Corps, and they did it with great skill.

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OBITUARY

GENERAL SIR WILLIAM MORGAN

Skilled Staff work at Dunkirk and in Italy

General Sir William Morgan, GCB, DSO, MC, who died at the age of 85, was especially a Staff Officer that he made his reputation. During the Second World War he was three times Chief of Staff to Field Marshal Lord Alexander, in a division of the 1st Army, and finally at Allied Headquarters in the Mediterranean. When the war was over, he succeeded Alexander as Supreme Commander of the Mediterranean Theatre, and was subsequently Chief of the British Joint Services Mission in Washington.

Affectionately known throughout the Army by his nickname of "Monkey", Morgan was small, wiry, alert and a resilient officer. Morgan was born on December 15, 1891, the son of Alexander Morgan, OBE, a well known Edinburgh doctor, and was educated at George Watson's College. When he left school, his father's hope was that he would choose medicine as a profession, but he resolved to be a soldier and passed into the Royal Military Academy in 1910, and was commissioned in the Royal Artillery. His family must have felt his choice justified, for during the First World War, in which he served in France and Belgium, he not only rose to command a battery as very young acting major but, in addition, he won the DSO and the MC and was four times mentioned in despatches.

Between the wars he gained a varied experience. He passed through the Staff College. He served with his regiment. He saw active service in the Middle East. He was Military Attaché in Budapest and Vienna. He was Chief of the Staff of the Royal Military Academy, and when the war broke out he was commanding an artillery regiment which he took to France with the BEF.

He was soon appointed to the post of Chief of the Staff of the GSO 1 to General Alexander. This was the beginning of a long and happy association between them. When Alexander succeeded Dill in command of the 1st Corps, Morgan was promoted to Brigadier and then to Major-General. He did splendid service in the advance of the Corps to the River Dyle when the Germans invaded Belgium in May, 1940, in the two weeks fighting which fol-

lowed, and at Dunkirk. During the evacuation, Morgan was first confined to the Staff as Chief of Staff of the 1st Division, and then as Chief of Staff of the 1st Corps, and they did it with great skill.

On his return to England, he served as Chief of Staff of the 1st Division, and then as Chief of Staff of the 1st Corps, and they did it with great skill.

On his return to England, he served as Chief of Staff of the 1st Division, and then as Chief of Staff of the 1st Corps, and they did it with great skill.

Provisional April retail sales show slight improvement

By Caroline Atkinson

A 'touch' of spring pushed shop sales in April up from March's very low level, but it was too slight to alter the underlying depression in retail trade.

Provisional figures released yesterday by the Department of Trade showed that sales volume in the three months to April was 4 per cent below that of the previous three months, despite the nearly 1 per cent boost last month.

This year has been a very bad one so far for retailers, with the average volume of sales in the first four months well below last year's level. It is too soon to know whether the upturn in April heralds a change in the trend. One month's figures alone cannot give a reliable guide to what is happening, and the first estimates of retail sales are often revised substantially.

However, it seems likely that the sharp fall in spending this year is now bottoming out. It was in part a reaction to the squeeze on real incomes which began in 1976 but was not then reflected in sales.

A sustained upturn in consumer spending, however, is unlikely to come for several months. Real living standards are still falling as the present pay policy is holding wage increases below the rate of inflation.

April's provisional figures are in line with the lower sales volumes since January, and suggests that while the worst may be over, retail trade is now on a plateau.

In value terms, shop sales were 12 per cent up in April on a year ago. The average value of sales in the first four months of 1977 was 14 per cent higher than the same time a year ago.

High rates of productivity had been achieved, said Mr Munro, and in the past eight months not a single hour had been lost through industrial disputes. Planting building yards, he noted, had been existing on orders placed in 1974-75 but the oil industry had not made any major commitment since then.

All the yards are facing a bit of a precipice. But things are changing now. There has been some speculation about the future, but Mr Munro is staying in the North Sea business.

Yesterday the EEC Commission announced that it was making grants totalling £1,093,040 available to alleviate unemployment in the United Kingdom steel industry.

A total of £1m will go to 1,325 men who have lost their jobs at works owned by the Buntport group at Llanelli and Briton Ferry and £3,040 will go towards retraining schemes for 308 men affected by closures of BSC works at Workington and Rotherham.

Mr Munro said employees kept on would be involved in pursuing business and preparing bids as well as maintaining facilities.

The company, he said, was now preparing a bid for a platform jacket required by Conoco for the Murchison field.

180 more jobs may go in New Town

By R. W. Shakespeare

More trouble has arisen over another threatened factory closure at Skelmersdale New Town, Lancashire, where unemployment is already running at more than 20 per cent, after the closure of Courtauld's big weaving mill at the end of last year.

The latest shutdown has been announced by Porter and Brumfield (P&B), a company that makes electrical relays. It plans to close the factory in August with the loss of 180 jobs.

Yesterday all shop floor workers were sent home because of a continuing 'sit in' by eight women members of the white collar union ASTMS.

They are continuing action started earlier by members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers in support of demands for better severance terms. The sit in is aimed at preventing any finished goods from leaving the factory.

Yesterday the 3 women, all married with children, claimed that they had been locked into the factory by the management over the weekend. They said that since then, Friday, they had been outside the factory.

The sit in began last week after the collapse of talks on severance pay between the management and union representatives.

In December the Courtaulds shutdown at Skelmersdale meant the loss of more than 1,000 jobs and this followed the earlier closure of another big factory, the Thora group's colour television tubes plant.

These closures have turned the new town into one of the country's worst unemployment black spots.

Textile union leaders have approached the Government for help in setting up a workers cooperative to reopen Courtauld's weaving mill at Skelmersdale.

Textile union representatives met Department of Industry officials in Manchester to discuss proposals for a workers' cooperative.

Mr Jack Brown, the general secretary of the Amalgamated Textile Union, was not prepared to explain the plans but he said that further meetings would be taking place.

Unions were upset by Courtauld's decision to shut the Skelmersdale mill which had been purpose-built, with considerable state financial aid, a decade earlier.

Whitehall aid sought over waste paper collections by councils

By Edward Townsend

Papermakers, concerned about the sharp increase in imports of waste paper, are pressing the Government to assist local authorities to restore waste collection services.

Latest figures from the Joint Waste Paper Advisory Council, which comprises mills, merchant processors and local authorities, show that in the first three months of the year, United Kingdom collections were more than 31,000 tonnes below consumption levels. Imports, at almost 43,000 tonnes, were 225 per cent higher than a year earlier.

Britain exported about 11,000 tonnes of waste paper in the first quarter, a drop of a third on a year ago, but papermakers stress that had local councils continued to collect waste at 1974 levels, the country could now be a net exporter.

The council, which is seeking a meeting with ministers to air its views, is urging that the 'necessary steps' be taken to remove some of the disincentives preventing local authorities from operating full waste paper collection services and to encourage expansion.

Many local councils have operated waste collection systems but only on a pilot basis and these have suffered in the face of non-profit-making activities. This has occurred despite the advisory council's prediction that mill consumption of waste paper this year will total 2,250 tonnes, a rise of 9 per cent on last year. In the first quarter, waste consumption was up by 19.7 per cent.

Imports are now at their highest level and, says the council, 'entail an unwarranted burden'.

Local authority collections now represent less than 11 per cent of mill consumption against 15 per cent in 1975 and 18 per cent in 1970.

The British Paper and Board Industry Federation maintains that using waste paper represents a saving on the balance of payments of £300m a year and provides the industry with almost half of its fibrous raw material needs.

Rubery may sell axle plant to US group

By Clifford Webb

Rubery Owen, motor components manufacturer at Darlington, Staffordshire, confirmed yesterday that it was discussing the sale of its axle housing factory to the American-owned Eaton group, which holds 30 per cent of the British market for heavy truck axles.

Rubery's position as the leading producer of axle housings has been seriously eroded in recent years by imports and in-house manufacturing by Eaton, its biggest customer.

The deal will provide Rubery with much-needed cash to bolster its remaining manufacturing business.

The transaction is complicated by the fact that Rubery already has a 25 per cent stake in Eaton Axles, with the remaining 75 per cent owned by Eaton Ltd, the United Kingdom subsidiary of the Cleveland, Ohio, parent.

The company has recently installed modern axle housing plant at Aycliffe, Co Durham, and expanded capacity at its large plant at Pamplona, Spain.

But any move to close Darlington is denied. In a statement last night Mr Frederick Hosson, managing director of Eaton Axles, Europe, said that Eaton needed further capacity in Europe and other overseas countries.

In brief

Minicomputer manufacturers should be included.

In the longer term, a condition of preferential tendering should be that the manufacturer uses British-made peripherals and components where available.

Since public sector users may consider that such a procurement policy might involve them in extra risks, the Department of Industry should consider 'improvements' in the means open to them to advise and assist such users.

OMAC package

Programs developed jointly by ICL and Vickers Engineering (with Department of Industry support) to provide production control and management information for medium-sized engineering companies are now being marketed commercially by the computer company.

Under the system name OMAC (On-line Manufacturing Control), five modules are available which can be used with ICL 1900 or 2900 hardware.

Forward orders for British-made furniture continue at a low level, with index readings showing a 12 per cent drop by volume on those held by manufacturers.

Figures for March issued by the Department of Industry yesterday show that deliveries for the month are 5 per cent ahead of the 1976 figure by volume and, at £71m, more than 20 per cent ahead by value.

Yarn output stagnant

Activity in Britain's cotton and allied textile industry in March showed little change from the previous 12 months, according to the latest figures from the Textile Statistics Bureau.

The daily rate of single yarn production was marginally less than in February, but was 5 per cent greater than in the corresponding month a year earlier. The daily rate of woven cloth production was much the same in March as in February, although output levels during the month were about 1.5 per cent less than in March last year.

OFT warning on price

The Office of Fair Trading is warning all trade suppliers of photographic materials against insisting on contracts with retailers that shops adhere to fixed minimum prices in their advertising. It has been investigating the situation for some time and has found some evidence of suppliers insisting on such minimum resale prices in an attempt to limit price cutting.

One supplier has already given the OFT a voluntary undertaking not to insist in future that retailers in its supply chain adhere to a scale of minimum prices in their advertising.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Getting at Britain's coal reserves

From Mr R. B. Dunn

Sir, The letter by Mr Gerald Manners (May 6), in reply to mine of May 4, raises again the question of definitions in determining the extent of British coal reserves and seeks to relate this question to the recent financial results of individual coalfields.

In view of the importance of the assessment of coal reserves in considering energy policy for the UK, some further elaboration on the position is desirable. Professor Pryor rightly points out in your issue of May 10 that economically recoverable reserves of all minerals are dynamic variables depending on many diverse factors.

During the 1960s, and up to the oil revolution of 1973-74, UK energy policy assumed that there would be no case for new mines in the foreseeable future. Thus, the economically recoverable reserves at that time were assessed as those accessible to existing collieries, namely four billion tons. Indeed, it was the intention of Mr G. Armstrong (then chief geologist of the board), in his much quoted statement before the oil crisis, to show that, on unchanged policies, the country was running out of access to economically workable coal.

The operating reserves accessible to existing mines currently show little change from 1973 figures. However, the events of 1973-74 are now seen to have been a turning point in world energy development.

Directors are not, I think, bound to comply with the 'directions' of the Government or of the shareholders acting as individuals.

It is for this reason that the duty of a director is owed exclusively to the company; he is not bound to follow the 'directions' of the Government or of the shareholders acting as individuals.

There is no legal foundation for the view expressed by the Blacklock Committee that 'there is direct representation of shareholders on boards of directors'.

The Law remains as formulated by a Lord Justice of Appeal (1908 2 KB at pp. 105-6) in these words: 'The directors are not servants to obey directions or to view the shareholders as individuals; they are not agents appointed by and bound to serve the shareholders as their principals. They are persons who may be subject to regulations, but are not to be seen to be a recipe for disaster.'

Yours faithfully, RALPH INSTONE, 15 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, London, WC2A 3UA

The law and a director's duty to his company

From Mr Ralph Instone

Sir, If, as you report (May 10), the Government intends to consider legislation for employee representation on boards of companies, it is essential that the duties and obligations of the reconstructed board should be expressly redefined by statute.

There is no legal foundation for the view expressed by the Blacklock Committee that 'there is direct representation of shareholders on boards of directors'.

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Yours faithfully, RALPH INSTONE, 15 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, London, WC2A 3UA

Travellers' cheques

From Mr Harry Shipley

Sir, Mr Maycock's suggestions about travellers' cheques (May 6) is a very sound one and one that I have long expressed using on several occasions. However, on a recent visit to Italy I was very glad I had sterling travellers' cheques, because other members of the group I was with were not so fortunate.

The cheques were in the name of I believe, of the Banco di Roma, and those holding them wished to exchange them in Venice were told that they could only do so at the rate of 100 lire to the pound (which would only be open during the morning following Italian banking hours). After considerable trouble, they were eventually exchanged, at a discount, for 25,000 lire.

The reason for the difficulty we did not discover; I only write to suggest that those who take like travellers' cheques to Italy would be wise to investigate the situation in advance.

Yours faithfully, HARRY SHIPLEY, 3 Lovell Close, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 9LB

Furniture orders drop

Forward orders for British-made furniture continue at a low level, with index readings showing a 12 per cent drop by volume on those held by manufacturers.

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A City example for Whitehall

From Mr J. Gillum

Sir, With the City as Whitehall's favourite whipping boy, we should ask ourselves how the City's procedures for appointing and removing its directors are different from those of the City of London.

This, surely, is a political 'Class' distinction, and for the benefit of the less well-informed, a Class 4 transaction (Stock Exchange parlance) is a transaction where, for example, a director or significant shareholder of a listed company is also controlling shareholder of a business being bought by the listed company.

Stock Exchange Rules in no sense seek to prohibit such deals; but they do demand, and quite irrespective of financial materiality, democratic approval procedures, namely a resolution of the shareholders of the listed company, at which the interested director would be debared from voting his shares.

In this way is justice not only done but seen to be done—the latter is sharp contrast to the City appointment.

Clearly, therefore, the City is way ahead of Whitehall on this subject and one hopes that when Sir Harold Wilson completes his report, he will not neglect to recommend measures which, like this one, have a wide significance.

Yours faithfully, JOHN GILLUM, 114 Old Broad Street, London, EC2, May 15

The extortion of a £2m surplus levy

From Mr P. H. Webster

Sir, The announcement in the trade press of a £2-million surplus levy, gathered by the Printing and Publishing Industries Training Board (PPITB), is the extortion to which I referred in my letter of May 9 that you kindly published.

Nobody can deny the success of the PPITB in perpetrating one of its courses, to maximum effect, upon the unsuspecting victim, by indulging so forcibly in 'Progress to Profit'.

Yours faithfully, P. H. WEBSTER, Managing Director, Keenon Press Ltd, Marsh Wharf, Saint Mary's Road, Middle Green, Slough, Berkshire, SL3 6DA

Chance to restore managers' financial motivation

From Dr John H. Oxley

Sir, Under the heading 'Answers in Parliament' in *The Times*, May 2, you quote from *Hansard* the post in 1977-78 of reducing the top rate of income tax on earned income from 33 per cent to 20 per cent, 50 per cent or 50 per cent would be £100m, £230m or £435m respectively.

Elsewhere in the same article we must read that the wage cost of the internal revenue department, excluding the tax department, is £126m in 1971-72 to £222m in 1976-77. In a previous issue of *The Times*, answers in Parliament of March 22, stating that the number of people employed in the Internal Revenue department was 35,745 in 1944-45 to 69,791 in 1970-71 and 82,119 in 1976-77, that is from 25 to 32 per cent of the total revenue in 1944-45 to 40 per cent of taxpayers in 1976-77.

According to *International Herald Tribune* of March 22, 2 per cent of British tax payments are received by the tax collectors, and also in Great Britain there are more people in the internal revenue than in the United States, a country four times the size.

Anyone who still believes in the effect of good management on industrial performance and who realises that to get such management requires motivation, must see, in a comparison of the above figures, a golden opportunity to at least partially restore some financial motivation for England's much maligned managers. The size of the Internal Revenue department should be reduced by between two and four times, either by increasing efficiency, using computers, simplifying the tax structure, which would also reduce the amount of energy absorbed by the tax payers, or by declaring their taxes, bringing in Americans into the Internal Revenue department or quite simply starting to work again with efficiency, we used to have at the end of the Second World War.

The money thus released would be available to increase incentives and productivity without costing the country a penny.

Yours faithfully, JOHN H. OXLEY, Rue Greter, 75009 Paris, France, May 5

'Meaningless' production figures

From Dr P. E. Jones

Sir, Many of us in industry greatly appreciated the two articles by Mr E. G. Wood (May 2 and 4) which point the way to a more realistic production figures based on added value.

In fact, Mr John Curry and I had submitted a letter to you on this very theme, which you did not publish but which was published in a slightly amended form in the *Financial Times* on April 27. We believe a policy based on the ideas outlined by Mr Wood provides a satisfactory way out of the dilemma employers, trade unions and government now find themselves in as a result of previous rigid wage policies.

However, although the principles outlined by Mr Wood are correct the figures are wrong because the *Census of Production* figures emanating from the Department of Industry are manifestly in error in regard to the monitoring of the structure performance of manufacturing industry in the United Kingdom. This is because they are obtained by the summation of sets of figures obtained from 'establishments', and not companies.

Many of these establishments are not selling companies at all in that they transfer their manufactured goods to a selling company and so have to estimate the selling price and the number of people involved in the selling activity together with their expenses. Many transfer their products to another establishment to be incorporated as

components in further manufacture thus causing a deal of double counting, and many are responsible for worldwide activities in their particular industry and so cannot return including goods produced and sold by overseas subsidiaries.

Finally, some are not well-accounting and so have no means of ascertaining the percentage of the census of production returns.

The magnitude of the problem can be illustrated by taking the figure which Mr Wood quotes in his first article for the total employment in manufacturing industry in 1975 of 7,504,000 and the total sales of £35,700m. This leads to a sales per employee figure of £4,752.

Private figures of £1,752 industrialists know that this figure is far too high and that a true figure would be about £8,000. To get a true feel of this one only has to look at the sales per employee in a company figures covering United Kingdom employees using assets located in the United Kingdom. Such an arrangement has long since been established in Japan covering Japanese employees using Japanese capital covering Japanese industry as Mr Wood points out with great success.

Yours faithfully, P. E. JONES, President, Engineering Industries Association, Equitable House, Lyons Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 2RG

The principal activities of the Company are the retailing and manufacture of high quality menswear in the UK and Overseas.

Copies of the annual report can be obtained from the Secretary, Austin Reed Group Limited, P.O. Box 2, Thirsk, North Yorkshire YO7 1PF.

AUSTIN REED

Austin Reed Group Limited

Mr. Barry Reed reports for the year to 31 Jan 1977

- Record year for sales
- Pre-tax profit nearly doubled
- Maximum permissible dividend increase
- Proposed increase in capital investment
- Further progress expected this year

	1976/7	1975/6	
	£m	£m	% increase
Turnover	31.3	26.0	20.3
Pre-tax profit	2.0	1.1	76.1
Earnings per share (p)	9.2	6.5	41.5
Dividend (%)	15.75	14.32	10.0

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Cavenham—yet another ingenious scheme



Mr. John Moti, Chairman of French Kier, still negotiating with the Department of the Environment.

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profit of £3.1m compared with a loss of £1.5m. The shares have come up from 9p to 25p since the day before the interim figures and if the spectacular rise is already in the past, the partial restoration of the dividend leaves scope for further improvement.

Final 1976 (1975)
Capitalisation £11.9m
Sales £156.1m (£169.5m)
Pre-tax profits £3.08m (£1.9m)
Earnings per share 1.6p (3.8p)
Dividend gross 0.765p (0.765p)
Less

Building societies Famine to feast

Building societies' traditional reluctance to alter interest rates has been accentuated by the pace of external interest rate adjustments in past months. On the way up increases in external rates helped create the mortgage famine as funds abandoned the societies. Now, on the way down, the societies are submerged beneath a monthly net inflow of nearly £500m.

Demanded for mortgages is increasing, and the societies themselves talk of the need for a monthly inflow of £500m to maintain the healthy housing market. But the take-up of mortgages is unlikely to match the inflow of cash in the next few months and, added to the societies' unwillingness to be accused of sparking another house price explosion, a fair proportion of the additional inflow must find its way into the gilt market.

In the light of the current steep yield curve in the gilt market and the societies' statutory restrictions on gilt purchases, stockbrokers James Capel argue that the bulk of the societies' overflow of funds will be put into 5 to 15-year stocks. The overflow may not be dramatic but even relatively slight additions to the stock portfolio could have a disproportionate effect on prices, now that the weight of institutional interest has switched to equities.

Corporation stocks More to come

The £15m stock issue announced by the Borough of Sunderland yesterday was the first in the corporation sector since the middle of March, but it is not by any means likely to be the last. Central government's attempt to persuade the authorities to buy long-term gilts has already paid off in a crop of longer-dated 'yearling' bonds, but this only touches the tip of the iceberg of short-dated borrowings.

Sunderland was yesterday quite specific that the proceeds of the issue were to be used to replace money raised by borrowing to meet authorized capital expenditure, and the wonder of the situation really lies in the fact that we have not seen more such issues through the spring. That might be because more rates are falling so fast that there was a temptation on the part of council treasurers to hold off till they hit their most favourable level. If so, such penny pinching may prove to have been unwise, for the question for corporation stock issues now apparently stretches to the end of the year.

Sunderland itself, a 12½ per cent issue dated 1984 and priced at 1994 for a running yield of 12.54 per cent and a 12.4 per cent redemption yield, seems likely to get off to a reasonable start. The yield is a couple of points better than that available on the nearest comparable gilt, Treasury 12 per cent 1983.

The Low Pay Unit continues to build up pressure on the Government to make employers observe the statutory pay minima fixed by wages councils for three million employees. Eighty MPs, some from all parties, have signed a House of Commons letter yesterday, sponsored by Mr Jeffrey Rooker, Labour MP for Perry Barr, Birmingham, supporting the unit's aims.

Mr John Grant, the responsible parliamentary under-secretary at the Department of Employment, is no less anxious to make the wages council orders effective, if he can discover how to do it. He has been having talks with representatives of the TUC, the Confederation of British Industry, the Retail Consortium and the chairman of wages council orders to provide the larger force of social insurance inspectors. The TUC also favours it.

Mr Grant would certainly like more and will no doubt do what he can to get the present limits on government spending an obstacle. Indeed, he is relieved that he has not been faced with a reduction in the number of inspectors. The position will be slightly eased by the coming abolition of the Road Haulage Wages Council and by the transfer of responsibility for the disabled persons' quota to the Employment Service Agency.

There are 130 wages inspectors in England and Wales at £30.30. In unlicensed restaurants it is £27.92, to be increased by £2.50 under a Stage Two settlement next month.

There are 130 wages inspectors who aim at visiting 71 per cent of the establishments each year or eight, and the inspectors tend to pay most attention to the larger ones.

The most obvious step to improve the position is to increase the number of inspectors. The Low Pay Unit has consistently pressed for this, comparing the number with the larger force of social insurance inspectors. The TUC also favours it.

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Mr Grant tentatively suggested the possibility of raising funds to pay for a larger inspectorate by imposing a levy on defaulting employers or on wages council employers generally, while pointing out that this would depart from the general principle that the state pays for the enforcement of the law. This idea retained short shrift when he put it to employers' organizations and even the TUC was against it.

Only the Low Pay Unit, when it heard of it, thought it might be worth further consideration. But the cost of collection might be greater than the proceeds.

If the inspectorate cannot be increased, can better use be made of it? A clause in the Employment Protection Act, which gives the Secretary of State power to require a wages council employer to provide relevant information, could help inspectors to know where to direct their attention. A questionnaire has been drafted and is being tried out.

Last autumn, Mr Grant experimented with saturation inspections, which became known as the "low pay blitz". In 23 medium-sized towns, concentrating on shops, restaurants and public houses, where offences were thought most likely. The department's worst fears were realized, it said, when it became clear that a third of the employers visited were either unaware of, or had misapplied, the regulations.

More than a quarter had been under-paying and owed almost £10,000 to the 1,500 employees covered.

The blitz achieved the publicity, which was one of its objectives, with somewhat embarrassing results. The number of individual inquiries increased until by December there were 28,000, twice the usual number—all of which had to be dealt with, though one-third came from workers not covered by wages councils.

There will be more blitzes. The Low Pay Unit has pressed for more prosecutions and a higher level of fines. It is not usual to prosecute for first offences, except in very bad cases, and even with second offences there is often difficulty in getting workers to give evidence against their employers. In any event the preparation of cases takes up a lot of an inspector's time.

There were only three prosecutions as a result of the blitz and three other prosecutions are expected shortly. It has been decided that inspectors should make a larger number of second visits, which presumably will uncover more second offences and so lead to somewhat more prosecutions. Efforts are also being made to overcome the difficulty of getting evidence.

While the maximum fine, though recently increased, is still only £100, offending employers may face large sums in arrears of pay.

The practice of not normally prosecuting first offenders is generally accepted because it is realized that a large proportion of employers and employees are unaware of the wages council system and, when they are aware of it, fail to understand the complicated orders. When Mr Rooker and his friends were seeking support for their Commons motion, they found that not all MPs were aware of the existence of wages councils.

The first priorities must therefore be to make wages councils known and to simplify their orders, which have become even more complex since the incomes policy began. The blitz helped to make the councils known. Half a million copies were produced of a simple leaflet informing wages council workers of their rights.

Mr William Kain, director of the Multiple Shops Federation, suggested that in wages council industries the obligatory written contract of employment should include a reference to the worker's rights under the system.

The main problem is not to punish deliberate law-breakers, but to inform the ignorant and usually well-meaning.

Eric Wigham

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Arthur Burns: the second most influential American?

Frank Vogl

Dr Arthur Burns looks the sort of man a Hollywood film director would cast as an elderly university don. His suits are usually rather rumpled, his pipe is constantly clenched between closed lips, his eyes are always looking at the camera, and his thick grey hair is invariably parted neatly down the middle in a style fashionable half a century ago.

The chairman of the Federal Reserve System hardly looks like the tough, cunning and skilled politician that he is. He is often hard to imagine him, when he is standing somewhat awkwardly at a cocktail party or diplomatic reception, as the man who according to a recent opinion poll is the most influential American.

His often slow and gentle manner, like his appearance, is deceptive as most Congressmen, businessmen and other people in the public eye are only too swift to note.

Dr Burns was appointed to his present office by former President Nixon and his position was strengthened by President Ford. He has had surprising little difficulty in moving with speed to the centre of President Carter's court. Mr Carter said constantly during his presidential campaign that he wanted to appoint his own Fed chairman, but he now remains a chairman of the Fed when his seven-year term ends next February (his term as one of the governors of the Fed does not end until 1981).

The strength of his position at home has undoubtedly added to his international prestige, which has to some extent been enhanced by his ability to survive longer than most of his foreign contemporaries. The central bank chiefs still meet

growth targets, and he has done so in ways that have left the Fed stronger, rather than weaker.

He has, of course, made numerous blunders, most particularly, perhaps, his swift adoption of extremely tight monetary policies in 1974, which probably resulted in the recession being deeper and longer than might have been the case. But at that time he accurately sensed the degree of support he could obtain from the then Republican administration for his policies, which ensured that his own position was secure.

He is a fighter—and a shrewd one at that—and his ability accurately to gauge the moods of his political masters, be they in Congress or in the White House, has ensured his survival and rising influence—so much so that there is now serious speculation that President Carter might even ask him to remain as chairman of the Fed when his seven-year term ends next February (his term as one of the governors of the Fed does not end until 1981).

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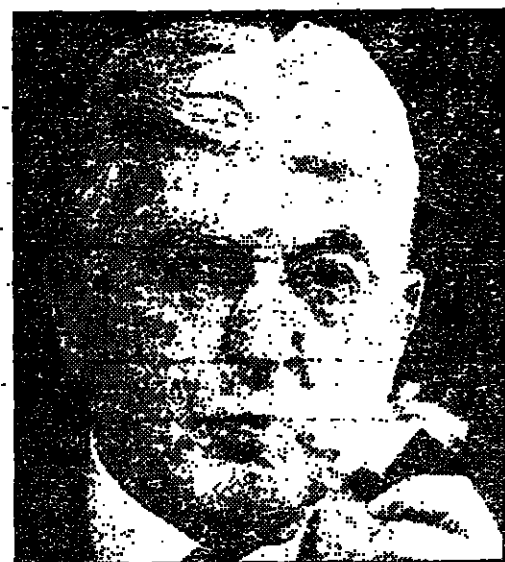
regularly at the Bank for International Settlements, but for the most part the participants at these meetings are younger than those who sought to guide the monetary system through the chaos of the early 1970s.

Dr Burns, who was 73 at the end of last month, must not doubt miss the company of Lord O'Brien of Britain, Edwin Stopper of Switzerland, Olivier Wormser of France, Karl Glasen (just retired) of West Germany and Guido Carli of Italy at the sumptuous dinners at Basle's Euler Hotel.

Dr Burns has been open to new and novel ideas in the international area and his lack of strong doctrinaire views

has allowed him to take in his stride the moves away from gold, the devaluations of the dollar and the floating of exchange rates, that he directly played a key role in instigating.

He has won for himself a special position of respect among European political leaders. Mr Callaghan, for example, or Mr Reagan, for example, or Mr Helmut Schmidt, each think of Dr Burns as a close personal friend. This makes him a valuable diplomatic asset for the United States, that American President have swiftly recognized, with the result that Dr Burns has a travel schedule that would exhaust most men.



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Business Diary: BL's MacGregor • Sir Richard returns

he news that Ian MacGregor, stepping down first as chief executive and then as chairman of Amax, the United States mining company, raises the question: is he the next chairman of British Leyland?

He is a director of British Leyland, and he is available in October. It is said, not confirmed, that he was one of the people invited to and in as chairman upon the death 18 months ago of Sir Ronald Edwards.

At that time, so the story goes, MacGregor still had a couple of years of contract to go, and Amex were not amused at the idea of his leaving early. The British Leyland job thus went to Sir Richard Dobson, striking chairman of British American Tobacco.

Sir Richard began to look as he was regretting his acceptance as the too-roomy strike got under way and then dragged on and on. His chairmanship is pending. He now seems to take the view that the Board

should stick together even if the man might be willing to hang on for another year—unless, of course, there were a suitable successor in the wings and therefore no need for an embarrassing long search for his replacement.

MacGregor, a Scot, would make a most interesting choice—assuming that Leyland survives to have another chairman. His selection would give some clue to government intentions, for he has a reputation as an autocrat.

His directness would be useful if the Government were determined not to pussyfoot about with British Leyland, but could work either way: he can cut through to the heart of a company's problems and can inspire loyalty, but he could also antagonize the staff.

He was under contract to the United States. He allowed that he was looking for things to do in retirement, but as for Leyland he said he would cross that bridge when he came to it.

He has a house in Scotland but is not domiciled there for tax reasons. For the first five years of his retirement he will also have a \$8,000-plus consultancy with Amex, which will take up to a third of his time.

Iron and Steel Community Council, which is supposed to protect the interests of steel using industries.

This will renew his acquaintance with the steel industry, for as Minister of Power at the time of nationalization he was responsible for the late Lord Melchett's becoming the first chairman of the British Steel Corporation.

He will be expected to chair the organization's meetings (he gets expenses only) and will be leading the BISCC team in any negotiations with the British Steel Corporation and private steelmakers' group, the British Independent Steel Producers' Association.

The council has lost some steam, first with the untimely death of former chairman Jack Frye and then with the resignation earlier this year of Lord Tidd, its secretary. John Safford, its new secretary, is a former NEDO official, is determined, however, to make the organization more prominent and evidently thinks Sir Richard a useful ally.

Sir Richard will continue as chairman of the Newspaper Publishers' Association but can expect to find himself elected to one of the two seats held by the BISCC on the European Coal and Steel Community's Consultative Committee. The EEC is becoming increasingly involved in the steel industry, and so Sir Richard will undoubtedly be seeing more of Brussels.

Glitter rock

Inflation corner: Marks and Spencer is removing the automatic coin dispensers from some of its shops to save angry customers are now handing over £5 notes instead of £1 that it is quicker to give change by hand.

"modelled" by celebrities in The Night of a Million Jewels at the Mansion House.

The work of the Parisian jeweller has been made available for a fundraising evening in aid of the Save the Children Fund, which will be attended by Princess Anne, the president of the fund. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayores, Sir Robin and Lady Gillett, will receive the guests.

There is solid business sense behind all the rubber-necking, however. Gerard, who recently opened a salon in London and is willing to undergo the risk and expense of transporting the collection (and insuring it at Lloyd's) for the show, says the royal function gives him.

He was general manager of the jewellers Van Cleef and Arpels until eight years ago, when he set up his own firm with the financial backing of the late Roger Bellon, the French chemicals industrialist.

On the move

LA STAMPA
DIE WELT

Europa

Currencies stronger but economies stay sluggish

The monetary situation in all our countries is still on the mend. One wonders, however, how far this trend is likely to go, since the economic situation has not improved to the same extent, except in West Germany.

Our two tables, tracing monetary and economic developments, illustrate the growing divergence. There can be no gainsaying the remarkably sustained firmness of our currencies, against the dollar at least, despite falling interest rates and the persistence of relatively high rates of inflation.

Britain continues to provide the sum turn, with a tumbling minimum lending rate and swelling reserves. It is worth logging the progress of this uninterrupted "devaluation" during the month of April 1977 alone: from 94 per cent on the 1st, M.L.R. was reduced to 91 per cent on the 7th, 9 per cent on the 14th, 83 per cent on the 21st and 84 on the 29th.

The banks' base rate is now 84 per cent whereas inflation is still running at 15 per cent, while wages are rising by only 9 per cent. The Budget deficit is down to 6.5 per cent of gross national product (from 10 per cent), while the trade deficit itself fell sharply in April.

Italy, which has at last obtained loans of \$530m (about £12m) from the IMF and \$500m from the EEC, can draw satisfaction from the fact that its currency is relatively stable despite the abolition of the last vestiges of the compulsory deposits on imports.

At the same time, Italian interest rates are now joining the downward trend, with the overnight rate one point off from 15 per cent to 14 per cent, while there has been a sharp fall in Eurodollar rates. Inflation, however, remains at 18 per cent.

France, where the currency remains very firm (against the dollar at least), overnight money has become considerably cheaper, although the

mood has been more hesitant over the last few weeks. In West Germany calculations are based on real interest rates, which have been adjusted for inflation, especially in the long term. Thus, with a rate of inflation which, after rising to 5 per cent because of seasonal factors, has once more fallen back to 4 per cent, the monetary authorities can now contemplate interest rates of 64 and even 61 per cent over as much as 12 years.

The strength of the pound, the lira and the franc is to some extent a reflection of the weakness of the dollar, and the cuts in interest rates in these countries are only possible if American rates remain relatively low.

But the general factor which, more than any other, explains the exceptional position of short-term interest rates (so remarkably low by comparison with inflation) is undoubtedly the weakness in demand for credit in the private sector.

Maurice Bommensath

THE ECONOMY

	Growth (%)	Wages	Budget	Stability	Inflation
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
United States	6	+7	8	-3.5%	-2%
West Germany	4	+3	7	-3.9%	-2.7%
France	3	+2	12	-4.4%	-3%
Britain	3	-2	9	-6.5%	-4.7%
Italy	-1	-8	28	-1.6%	-4.9%

(1) Three-month average expressed as annual rate.
(2) Estimate for 1977.
(3) Estimate for fiscal 1977-78.
(4) As percentage of gnp and in national currency.

MONETARY AND FINANCIAL EFFECTS

	Interest rate (per cent)		Foreign exchange rate			
	Annual growth	Day to Day	Prime rate	Against the dollar, (6)	Against a basket of 6 currencies (7)	Change in stock exchange (per cent) index (8)
	per cent					
	in money supply (M1) (5)					
Dollar	8 (7)	5½	6.50	—	101.9 (101.9)	0 (—4)
Deutschemark	6 (7)	4	6.50	2.38 (+1.3%)	118.2 (112.7)	+6 (+1%)
Franc	7 (9)	9	—9.60	4.96 (+0.4%)	92.3 (91.9)	—5 (—30)
Pound	2 (8)	8	8.50	1.719 (0%)	86.2 (86.1)	12 (+28)
Lira	(21)	15	20	987 (0%)	78.6 (78.4)	—2 (—12)

(5) Six months moving average expressed as annual rate.
(6) Figures in parentheses show percentage change in month.
(7) End December 1975 = 100. Figure in parentheses gives position last month. Currencies are five listed on table plus Japanese yen.
(8) Change in previous month. Figure in parentheses gives change over previous 12 months.

Business appointments

Changes at International Computers

Five senior executives of ICL have gone on to the board of its main operating subsidiary, International Computers. They are: Mr. L. G. Cole, Mr. T. D. Griffin, Mr. E. S. Mack, Mr. P. W. Murphy and Dr. C. M. Wilson.

Mr. Bruce W. Mitchell, vice-president and manager of the Bank of America NT & SA, London, and Mr. Robert E. Vanden Bosch, vice-president and general manager of Harris Trust and Savings Bank, London, have become chairman and vice-chairman respectively of the American Bank Association of London in succession to Mr. Nigel R. Godwin and Mr. Harrison F. Tansley, who are returning to the United States.

Mr. Robert Yohanan, vice-president of The First National Bank of Chicago, has been made new area head for the United Kingdom, Ireland and Scandinavia and also general manager, London branch.

EMI Film Distributors, now renamed EMI Films, has acquired the film production and distribution assets of British Lion Films, which has ceased to trade.

The board of EMI Films is headed by Mr. Nat Cohen (executive chairman) with Mr. Michael Deesley and Mr. Barry Spinkings as joint managing directors.

Mr. Morris Young, managing director of United Arts in Britain, is to succeed Mr. Frank Poole as managing director of Bank Film Distributors. Mr. Poole, due to retire in 1978, becomes vice-chairman.

Mr. Allan Mitchell-Jones, at present vice-chairman of Wall's, is to join Brooke Bond Ltd. as chief executive of the United Kingdom meat division.

Mr. M. S. Lee has been made a director of Winchester London Trust.

Mr. B. F. Hayward and Mr. A. Longman join the board of Crouch Group.

Mr. Joseph Schuldenfrei and Mr. Alain de Berc have been made directors of Maidenhead Investments (Holdings).

Mr. William Kesteven, who has joined the board of Collier-Hammett Europe.

Mr. Ian Ross has become vice-president of Chemical Bank's petroleum and minerals group, Europe.

Mr. Patrick Cassey is now managing director of Wyseplant Group.

Mr. Donald Glazer and Mr. Michael Franks have joined the board of Eldridge & Eldridge.

Mr. Leon Hill, previously deputy chairman, becomes chairman of R. Mansfield, Mr. Bernard Adams remains managing director.

Mr. J. K. Lion, senior partner of Philipp & Lion, becomes vice-chairman of The Metal Market Exchange and Mr. E. J. Foster, managing director of R. P. Thompson & Sons, joins the board.

Mr. W. Quentin C. MacKenzie has been made financial director of Associated Paper Industries.

Mr. E. von Vaden has become chairman and Mr. K. H. Baker, deputy chairman, of Baxter, Fell & Co.

Parisian disposals take heat off Chesterfield's interest burden

By John Brennan
Chesterfield Properties, one of the earliest British property empires, managed to carve an enviable slice of the Central Paris office market before over-riding it with a new, over-heated British property sector in the early 1970s. The quality of that Parisian portfolio has been confirmed by the ease of its sale, and Chesterfield's need to sell around £13m of the properties as well as some £57m in the United Kingdom indicates that its own development plans did not avoid the over-enthusiasm of the boom era.

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The effect of property sales on interest costs, and consequently on earnings, is shown in 1976's results. Gross income increased slightly from £2.5m to £2.6m, but interest charges were clipped from £1.4m to £1.3m, leaving pre-tax profits nearly doubled at £1.5m. Dividends have been increased by the maximum permissible to 5.5p gross.

Pre-tax profits exclude £134,000 of development outgoings capitalised in this country and £292,000 capitalised in France. In both cases competition of developments are expected to significantly reduce the rolled-up interest charge this

year. Development costs are offset by a £2m surplus on property sales, £400,000 of which relates to the French disposals.

Mr. Roger Wingate, group managing director, believes that the disposals programme is now complete and that, with interest charges under control, Chesterfield will benefit more directly from reversionary income growth over the next two years as seven and 14-year rent reviews on the United Kingdom portfolio fall. The shares, which have been attracting strong speculative support thanks to Prudential Assurance's 17 per cent share stake, fell 7p to 214p on the results.

Mr. J. Harry Hooper, chairman of Armstrong Equipment, says that detailed planning will now start for the move of manufacturing operations from the Eastgate (Beverly) plant and Armstrong Patents to the new factory at Beverley.

The purchase of the Hedon Road building will allow expansion of some of the business operations conducted at the Eastgate factory at Beverley. But, in addition, the new 92,300 sq ft manufacturing plant is also expected to be developed on the site.

Armstrong already have exhaust system plants operating at Cheddale and Blackburn. Although moving from the Eastgate factory, Armstrong will still retain a major manufacturing site at Beverley of about 250,000 sq ft of buildings. This is at Swinemoor Land.

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Equities rally on 'cheap' buying

Equities continued to go ahead in the first two hours of trading, but then went sharply into reverse in the face of some light profit-taking.

But the present underlying strength of the market was again in evidence as late buying at the cheaper levels recovered a good part of the earlier losses. The FT index, 1.4 up at 11 am, was 4.9 lower two hours later, but with the late firmness closed just 1.1 off at 466.7.

As the month passes, so hopes for Ever Ready having done something remarkable in its sales to end February have risen. In December, buyers had £26m in their sights, after doubling profits in the six months to August 28, but now the market will be disappointed.

The group does not seem report £28m against £16.3m. It could make as much as £50m. The shares have, however, climbed from 114p in December when last mentioned here, to 171p now.

Gift-edged stocks had an even quieter session and ended with scattered movements of around one-quarter on both sides of overnight levels.

After hours, there was little change ahead of the Government decision to introduce variable interest bonds. Dealers felt that such a reaction to the week's advance was inevitable and were encouraged by the way prices responded to the late demand. The index is still up 16.5 since the start of the session.

After trading between extremes of 392p and 403p, ICI closed a penny better at 397. But generally the leaders were below their overnight levels, typical being Bechtel off 4p to 490p, Glaxo 3p to 515p, and Unilever 2p to 480p.

The prospect of a storm over the Drax power station, orders weakened both Reynolds, Pensions, by 9p to 201p and GEC, which gave up 4p to 184p.

Elsewhere in electricals, EMI, 4p lower at 235p, confirmed its sale reported here last week of its total holding of almost 6m shares in Prudential.

A broker's revelation of BP's Alaska assets lifted the shares 6p to 352p, while Tricentral made a good recovery from last week's dry-wet report, ending at 162p above 150p. A similar rise in Oil Exploration continued with the shares gaining another 4p to 174p. After figures, British-Borneo were similarly ahead at 152p.

Both AVP 92p and Reliant Motor, off 14p to 5p, were suspended with takeover news in the offering. The offer for the latter is likely to be at below the market price while another suspended was Alpine Holdings, 4p to the good at 31p. Colwyn Investments rose 2p to 26p on the news that T. Cowie's terms are to be conceded, while issues speculatively supported

included Birmingham Mint up 11p to 75p, Harold Perry, the motor group, which rose 4p to 94p, and Maple, which gained 14p to 124p.

A rights issue accompanied by dividend and reserve funds, which provided a lift for Cash, which jumped 15p to 69p. Two helped, by comment, were Britains 2p to 22p and Glyndwr 2p to 112p, but adverse observations left First & Mallinson 4p lower at 36p.

Over in the shipping sector, Walter, Runciman, where dealers are expecting matching record profits today, rose 10p to 132p and P & O, with the help of comment, jumped 5p to 166p.

In the financial sector, Cater Ryder was not moved at 265p after figures and there were similar performances from Seacombe Marshall at 260p in front of a statement due today. ANZ Group rose 3p to 335p after results and there was a firm recovery to 155p for Brothers which added 7p to 65p.

There was some sharp reaction to the recent strong gains in property shares which have

fallen from interest rate considerations.

Figures left Chesterfield 6p lower at 214p, Harland & Wolff 4p to 201p and there was a 3p loss from Land Securities 194p, and Bernard Sunley at 163p. After the annual report, Hammonson "A" lost 10p for a close of 480p.

In spite of a return to profits, French Kier ended 24p lower at 25p, while L. Dapkin, a strong market all last week, reacted to a loss of 5p to 55p.

Others to go ahead on statements were Associated Paper 3p to 42p and L. Dykes better by 4p to 35p.

After last week's United States purchase, the spotlight again falls on Boots, due to report preliminary figures on Thursday. Dealers expect profits to rise from £81m to a maximum of £90m, though some are nervous that the pension fund provisions would exceed last year's £8.8m. The group is thought to have had a good Christmas but the final three months of the year to March raises doubts. The shares were a firm 171p.

Many industrialists went a shade firmer after hours. Anglo-Swiss erased a tuppenny rise that preceded news of a further trading loss, while oils added amounts of up to 4p. Gold shares stayed quiet. Equities turned over on May 13 was £167.92m (27,052 bargains). According to Exchange Telegraph, active stocks yesterday were: ICI, Cope Allman, BAT, Shell, P & O, D. R. Dr. Bechtel, French Kier, L. Dapkin, Lucas, GKN, Barclay's, Boots, Tricentral, Glyndwr, Cosalt, Colwyn Investments, Storey Brothers, Hammonson and Reynolds Parsons.

Latest dividends

Company	Ord. Div.	Year	Pay date	Year's Prev.
Admiral (10p)	1.0	1976	7/7	4.51
Admiral (10p)	1.0	1976	7/7	4.51
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Armstrong Equipment buys Hull factory site

By Our Financial Staff
Following last week's news of Armstrong Equipment's expansion on the Continent with its first acquisition in France, comes the announcement of further expansion by this multi-based automotive components manufacturer.

In the name of its major manufacturing subsidiary, Armstrong Patents, Armstrong Equipment has exchanged contracts with Hulton Systems to buy the Hedon Road, Hull, factory premises occupied by Imperial Typewriters, together with 18 acres of land immediately at the rear of the factory. The site consists of a model modern block, factory buildings and canteen block of high-grade construction of about 280,000 sq. ft.

Mr. J. Harry Hooper, chairman of Armstrong Equipment, says that detailed planning will now start for the move of manufacturing operations from the Eastgate (Beverly) plant and Armstrong Patents to the new factory at Beverley.

The purchase of the Hedon Road building will allow expansion of some of the business operations conducted at the Eastgate factory at Beverley. But, in addition, the new 92,300 sq ft manufacturing plant is also expected to be developed on the site.

Armstrong already have exhaust system plants operating at Cheddale and Blackburn. Although moving from the Eastgate factory, Armstrong will still retain a major manufacturing site at Beverley of about 250,000 sq ft of buildings. This is at Swinemoor Land.

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Orbit inquiry 'stigma' eased on Cosalt's buoyant rights forecast

By Ray Maughan
With a rights issue at a deep discount and the promise of a substantial rise in profits and dividends, Cosalt, the chandlery, refrigeration, finance and caravan group, has emerged much of the "stigma" of the impending Department of Trade investigation into its banking subsidiary, Orbit Holdings.

Forecasting pre-tax profits of over £1m against £653,000 for the first six months of 1977, Mr. John Ross, Cosalt chairman, announced a one-for-two rights issue to raise £545,000 at 30p a share. A gross total dividend of 6p a share is forecast for the year. This compares with 2.84p gross on the enlarged capital.

The issue is intended to provide a wider capital base which is needed to support the increased volume of business.

Mr. Ross said that Cosalt had first heard of the appointment of the Department of Trade inspectors after the investigation had been announced on the Stock Exchange. He regretted the fact of the appointment and the manner of their appointment, but stressed that since full disclosure of the losses incurred by Orbit from the time of its acquisition by Cosalt in October 1974, has already been disclosed to shareholders, nothing will be learnt by the inspectors that can detract from the present value of Cosalt.

The shares recovered strongly yesterday with a 15p rise to 69p, where the prospective yield is 6.7 per cent and 15.3 per cent on the rights.

There was nothing in the signal from Sir Lindsay Alexander, Chairman of Ocean Transport and Trading, the Elder Dempster and Straits Raffles group, market shares held by the group at the annual meeting in Liverpool.

The chairman has already foreseen "a further useful improvement" in 1977-78, but has not yet reported on the group's performance. He added that no exchange adjustment will be needed unless the pound falls below its 1976 level. If it stays where it is, it is natural for Associated Paper Mills shares to rise 4p to 43p where they are within 10p of the 1976-77 high of 45p. Locally, Mr. L. W. Farrow, chairman, described the recovery he expected as "good" this year to September and is now described as "marked".

It is in the short-term, however, that the recovery is forecast. The 1976-77 results, which are now being reported, show a 12.2 per cent increase in pre-tax profits of £216,674 into profits of as much as £216,674.

There could be a earnings credit. So the prospect is for a very substantial improvement of attributable earnings. He added, however, that his inability to announce the placing of the shares of millions of pounds of new cargo liner orders now under negotiation.

Surprisingly, he reported on the group's performance. He added that no exchange adjustment will

COMMODITIES AND MARKET REPORTS

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Soviet Union ises its grain output goal

Vladivostok, May 16.—The Soviet Union has increased its 1977 annual grain production target from 220 million tonnes to 224 million tonnes, the country's highest since 1975, the Ministry of Agriculture said today.

The target, which is 4 million tonnes above the 1976 goal, was set at a meeting of the country's top agricultural officials in Vladivostok, the Far Eastern port city.

The target is based on the 1976-77 average output in the 1971-75 period was 181.6 million tonnes, the ministry said.

The target for 1977 production, set at 224 million tonnes, is 43.4 million tonnes above the 1976 goal.

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Wheat exporters to resume talks on world pact

Ottawa, May 16.—The world's four major wheat exporting countries, Canada, the United States, Australia and Argentina, are expected to resume talks on a world wheat pact, the Canadian government said today.

The talks, which were suspended last year, are expected to resume in the near future, the government said.

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Foreign Exchange

Sterling finally showed very little change in extremely quiet trading on foreign exchanges yesterday. The pound got up to touch \$1.75, but fell back to \$1.74, only to drift down again on some small-scale selling to finish at \$1.73.

Dealers said there is very little to go for in sterling while these three talks continue, although the currency is underpinned by a balance of payments prospect.

The increasing flow of North Sea oil appears to be offsetting the narrowing differentials between United Kingdom and American oil prices. A few dealers thought the Bank of England may have taken in a small amount of currency at the top.

The effective exchange rate was unchanged from Friday at 61.7.

Cold closed in London at \$147.85 an ounce, down \$0.25 on Friday.

Spot Position of Sterling

Bank of England London Rate: 100 Sterling = 147.85 US Dollars. 100 US Dollars = 67.65 Sterling.

Overnight Bid: 147.85. Offer: 147.85.

1 month: 147.85. 3 months: 147.85. 6 months: 147.85. 12 months: 147.85.

Forward Levels

New York: 1 month: 147.85. 3 months: 147.85. 6 months: 147.85. 12 months: 147.85.

London: 1 month: 147.85. 3 months: 147.85. 6 months: 147.85. 12 months: 147.85.

Discount market

It was a tight finish for the discount houses yesterday. They were paying anything from 7 per cent to 9 1/2 per cent for their closing balances. Somewhere or other in the system a hoarding of funds had been built up, but it was not expected to prove adequate overall.

Rates had come down during the morning from initial 7 1/2 to 7 per cent to around 6 1/2 per cent. But the market suddenly dried up in the afternoon, and the Bank of England found it necessary to give help on a moderate scale. This it did by the purchase of a small quantity of Treasury bills directly from the houses and by lending a small sum to one or two houses overnight at 10 1/2 per cent.

On the basis of identifiable factors, this should have been more than enough to take care of the situation, but there was not any money about at the finish.

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Wall Street

New York, May 16.—Prices on the New York Stock Exchange posted another gain today despite a prime rate increase. The Dow Jones Industrial average was ahead 4.16 points to 932.50.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners 533 to 310. Volume was 21,750,000 shares, up from 19,750,000 on Friday.

Coffee: 6c limit gain

New York, May 16.—COFFEE in C contracts advanced 6 cents to 32.00 cents a pound, the highest since last August, after a 10-cent advance in C contracts yesterday.

The market was buoyed by a report that the Brazilian coffee harvest was 10 per cent below the 1976 harvest, and by a report that the United States coffee stockpile was 10 per cent below the 1976 stockpile.

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UK metal stocks

Stocks in London Metal Exchange official warehouses at the end of last week were in tonnes: except silver) were: Copper 67,675; Zinc 113,325; Lead 595,275; Tin 7,490; Nickel 2,125; Aluminium 52,425; and other 300 to 31,725; silver up 150,000 to 17,050,000.

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

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Firms act to cut coffee price in US

In the United States both General Foods Corp and the other division of Procter & Gamble have acted to reduce the wholesale price of coffee. In White Plains, New York, General Foods, which is the largest coffee roaster, said it is cutting the wholesale price of ground coffee by 25 cents a pound. At the same time it was cutting decaffeinated coffee prices by 35 cents a pound. No transactions were counted at the higher price. General Foods said the price cut was a response to a fall in the price of coffee beans. The price of coffee beans has fallen from 1976 to 1977, the company said. The price of coffee beans has fallen from 1976 to 1977, the company said. The price of coffee beans has fallen from 1976 to 1977, the company said.

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Recent Issues

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§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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GENERAL VACANCIES

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£12,000 p.a. is required for the position of Cookery Editor. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, including the management of staff, the preparation of reports, and the coordination of the office's activities. The position offers a competitive salary and excellent career prospects. For further details, please contact our Birmingham office on 0121 234 5678.

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GENERAL VACANCIES

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Appointments Vacant also on page 9



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IN SCHOOL EXPERIENCE and PRACTICAL TEACHING

The person appointed will be responsible to the Registrar for Education for the execution of a research programme. The purpose is to enable the Council and its associated colleges to study the placing and function of school experience in courses of initial training. The appointment will be for one year with possible renewal for a second year and will commence in Autumn 1977. Some experience of research as well as of teaching is desirable but candidates with different backgrounds will be considered. Salary will be according to qualifications and experience, within the scale £4,146-£5,387 including London Weighting.

Further particulars of the post may be obtained from: Mrs. J. A. H. Jones, Council for National Academic Awards, 341, 343 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 9HP. To whom applications should be submitted by 31 May 1977.

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Full details and application form from

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SALES AND MARKETING

Appointments Register

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University of Southampton

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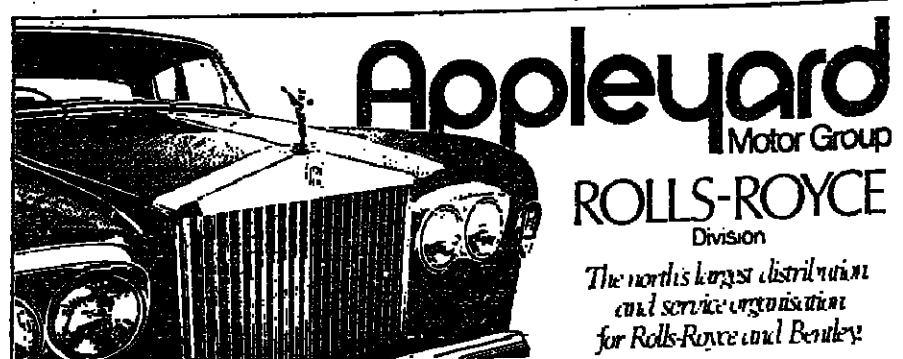
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Shadow 4-door saloon. Shell
Grey with black interior. 1970 NIPW 2-door Shadow
Silver. Alk. Electric Roof.

BENTLEY S3
Dawn Blue over Shell Grey.
1970 NIPW 2-door Shadow
Silver. Alk. Electric Roof.

CORNICHER 1971 K REG
In Silver Mink. 39,000 miles.
1970 NIPW 2-door Shadow
Silver. Alk. Electric Roof.

RENTALS
KENTWOOD
PILGRIMS LANE, W.2. Dble.
bed. room. 1970 NIPW 2-door Shadow
Silver. Alk. Electric Roof.

RENTALS
MAYFAIR PENTHOUSE
One of the finest flat air
conditioned houses in
London. 1970 NIPW 2-door Shadow
Silver. Alk. Electric Roof.

RENTALS
KNIGHTSBRIDGE
Elegant, beautiful, furnished
house. 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms.
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Silver. Alk. Electric Roof.

RENTALS
MOTOR CARS
VW BEATLE. 1974. Excellent
condition. One owner. 2000
miles only. Extra include radio,
heater, new tyres. 1970 NIPW 2-door
Shadow Silver. Alk. Electric Roof.

FLAT SHARING
W.2. Pleasant furnished room (share
with 2 others) in central
location. 1970 NIPW 2-door Shadow
Silver. Alk. Electric Roof.

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WILLIAM LOUGHRAN
OFFERS
1975 ROLLS-ROYCE COR-
NICHER Convertible Silver
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Grey with black interior. 1970 NIPW 2-door Shadow
Silver. Alk. Electric Roof.

WADHAM STRINGER
1972 Rolls-Royce Silver
Shadow 4-door saloon. Shell
Grey with black interior. 1970 NIPW 2-door Shadow
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GUY SALMON
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PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD. We make every effort to ensure that your advertisement is placed in the correct section. However, we cannot be held responsible for errors in placement. If you find an error, please contact us immediately.

And you shall love the LORD your God with all the heart and with all the mind and with all the strength and with all the power.

BAILEY—On May 12, 1977, at St. Mary's Hospital, London, a daughter, Elizabeth, born to Mr. and Mrs. J. Bailey.

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PERSONAL COLUMNS

ALSO ON PAGES 25, 26 and 27

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Your house can be beautifully used if you put it to the test. One person will be able to live in it comfortably. The rest of the house can be converted into a flat or a small house. The conversion is done by a professional firm. The cost is reasonable. The work is done quickly. The result is a beautiful new house.

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appeals for Legacies to support its world-wide work for orphaned and needy children

PLEASE REMEMBER THEM IN YOUR WILL
Charitable legacies and gifts to the fund are most welcome. Please contact the fund for more information.

THE SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND
237 Chapel Road, London, SW9 0PT

LANCING COLLEGE FOUNDERS' DAY
WILL BE ON SATURDAY, 4TH JUNE

CANCER RESEARCH CAMPAIGN
The largest single supporter of cancer research in the world. The campaign is for the cure of cancer. The research is of the highest quality. The results are promising. The future is bright.

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FURNITURE DIRECTORS
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FORTHCOMING EVENTS
QUEEN'S SILVER JUBILEE APPEAL
Send a few pence to help the Queen celebrate her Silver Jubilee. The money will be used for good causes. The appeal is for the whole of the United Kingdom.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
CANCER RESEARCH
People are up to it. Isn't there something I can do to help? The answer is yes. You can help by donating to the Cancer Research Campaign. The money will be used for the cure of cancer.

WANTED
A city kitchen garden. If you have a spare plot, please contact the gardeners. The garden is for the cure of cancer. The garden is of the highest quality. The results are promising. The future is bright.

THE GREAT SOURCE OF pleasure
The Great Source of pleasure is the cure of cancer. The cure is of the highest quality. The results are promising. The future is bright.

ON VIEW (16th, 17th & 18th May)
Research Fund Charity Auction
The Research Fund Charity Auction is a great opportunity to support the cure of cancer. The auction is of the highest quality. The results are promising. The future is bright.

MONACO GRAND PRIX—2 rooms.
See Holidays and Villas

PEACE and quiet in Chelsea. See London and Villas

BRITISH AIRWAYS
The British Airways is a great opportunity to support the cure of cancer. The airline is of the highest quality. The results are promising. The future is bright.

RESPONSIBLE LAYERS for permanent
The Responsible Layers for permanent are a great opportunity to support the cure of cancer. The layers are of the highest quality. The results are promising. The future is bright.

WANTED
The WANTED is a great opportunity to support the cure of cancer. The wanted is of the highest quality. The results are promising. The future is bright.

THE NEW GASLIGHT
The New Gaslight is a great opportunity to support the cure of cancer. The gaslight is of the highest quality. The results are promising. The future is bright.

GENTLEMEN'S WINE BAR at the
The Gentlemen's Wine Bar at the is a great opportunity to support the cure of cancer. The wine bar is of the highest quality. The results are promising. The future is bright.

YACHTS AND BOATS
The Yachts and Boats is a great opportunity to support the cure of cancer. The yachts and boats are of the highest quality. The results are promising. The future is bright.

SUPERB CRUISER, moored
The Superb Cruiser, moored is a great opportunity to support the cure of cancer. The cruiser is of the highest quality. The results are promising. The future is bright.

SEA STAR OF THE HEBRIDES
The Sea Star of the Hebrides is a great opportunity to support the cure of cancer. The star is of the highest quality. The results are promising. The future is bright.

SPORT AND RECREATION
The Sport and Recreation is a great opportunity to support the cure of cancer. The sport and recreation is of the highest quality. The results are promising. The future is bright.

UK HOLIDAYS
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